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SUPPLEMENT  
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MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

AUGUST 1967

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FOREWORD

During August enemy forces attempted to counter the growing number of Viet Cong setbacks with a series of mortar and troop attacks against U. S. and Vietnamese naval installations. Owing in large measure to timely intelligence and equally timely responsiveness, Allied units thwarted most of the attacks and frustrated the enemy's increasing need for psychological gains. On one occasion, however, in the First Coastal Zone, a battalion-size Viet Cong force overran the Coastal Group 16 base 70 miles southeast of Danang. Eventually the enemy troops were forced to retreat, but not before the base had sustained extensive damage and the Coastal Group commander and 13 Vietnamese sailors had been killed. During the attack the Coastal Group's senior advisor, Lieutenant William C. FITZGERALD, USN and his three assistants joined in the effort to repel the invaders and resisted until the advisors' bunker was virtually surrounded. Lieutenant FITZGERALD then requested an artillery strike on his position and provided covering fire while his men escaped to the river. Before Lieutenant FITZGERALD could make good his own escape he was killed by small-arms fire.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Aug - The Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay is commissioned. p. 69.
- The NAVSUPPACT detachment previously stationed at Can Tho is officially redesignated NAVSUPPACT Detachment, Binh Thuy. p. 53.
  - The MRF, operating in conjunction with ARVN and VNMC units, concludes Operation CORONADO II in Dinh Tuong province. Enemy losses include 675 killed and over 500 suspects detained. p. 39.
  - The 32nd Naval Construction Regiment is established. p. 59.
  - A U. S. merchantman, SEATRAN FLORIDA, is attacked twice in the Long Tau channel. Seven Viet Cong are killed by supporting PBRs and an Army helicopter fire team. p. 21.
  - SS BIENVILLE arrives in Danang, marking the beginning of conventional containership service in South Vietnam. p. 48.
  - The headquarters of Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade is shifted from Saigon to Danang. p. 61
  - SEALs kill three Viet Cong and capture another during a raid on an enemy village in the Binh Dai Secret Zone. p. 25.
  - Water Taxi Association in Kien Hoa province expresses gratitude for PBR operations. p. 63.
- 3 - Nha Be comes under an intense Viet Cong mortar and recoilless-rifle attack. Twenty-four U. S. Navy personnel are wounded, none seriously. p. 53.
- USCGC POINT CLEAR's mortar fire against a Viet Cong supply site north of Ca Mau Point initiates 12 secondary explosions and a large petroleum fire. p. 12.
- 6 - LCU-1537 is mined while at anchor 200 yards from the LCU-LCM ramp at Dong Ha. p. 47.
- 7 - Coastal Group 16's base is overrun by Viet Cong forces. The Coastal Group commander, LTJG N. N. THONG, VNN, and the Coastal Group's senior naval advisor, LT W. C. FITZGERALD, USN, are among those killed during the attack. pp. 3 and 83.

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- 7 Aug - A Navy helicopter fire team kills at least 10 members of the Viet Cong's main-force 261st Battalion during a strike along the Ham Luong River. p. 25.
- 10 - Class 16 of the Vietnamese Naval Academy is commissioned during ceremonies at the Academy's site in Nha Trang. p. 75.
- RAG 30 units surprise and capture eight Viet Cong, including a battalion commander, near the Saigon River. p. 89.
- 18 - Coastal Squadron THREE is commissioned at Cam Ranh Bay. p. 1.
- Coastal Group 13 sailors kill two Viet Cong swimmers attempting to penetrate the Coastal Group's base defenses. p. 80.
- MRF elements conducting CORONADO IV operate up to 40 miles away from the Mobile Riverine Base. p. 42.
- 22 - A GAME WARDEN helicopter fire team destroys approximately 60 enemy sampans in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. One of the co-pilots is mortally wounded by sniper fire. p. 28.
- 23 - The radar surveillance site on Poulo Obi Island, 12 miles south of Ca Mau Point, becomes operational. p. 1.
- Coastal Group 35 personnel capture 12 Viet Cong attempting to infiltrate a village near the Coastal Group base. p. 82.
- 27 - PCFs 61, 88 and 91 disrupt a Viet Cong attack on a Popular Forces outpost on Hon Heo Peninsula. p. 7.
- RAG 23 craft and units of the ARVN NINTH Division kill 15 Viet Cong along the banks of the Mang Thit River. p. 91.
- 29 - Seabees complete the Liberty Bridge, 15 miles southwest of Danang. p. 59.
- 31 - NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 25,667.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During August units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 168,000 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; almost one-half of this number were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 130 craft and 1,098 suspects.

On 18 August Coastal Squadron THREE was commissioned in a ceremony held on board USS GALLUP (PG 85) at Cam Ranh Bay. Commander William P. HOLDEN, USN, Commander Coastal Squadron ONE, assumed the additional duty of COMCOSRON 3. The new squadron consists of GALLUP and USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84) and will include other MARKET TIME gunboats as they arrive in country.

On the evening of 23 August the radar surveillance site on Poulo Obi Island, 12 miles south of Ca Mau Point, became operational, providing the surveillance effort with an all-weather detection capability in the southern portions of the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

In August Operation MARKET TIME units detected 114,000 junks and sampans; over 50 percent of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 103 junks and 892 suspects. In addition, 676 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas, 99 of which were boarded.

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The radar surveillance site on Pulo Obi Island.

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The month's MARKET TIME activity also included 112 gunfire support missions, 35 hostile fire incidents, four evasion incidents, one medical evacuation and seven search and rescue missions, and support for four ground operations and two amphibious operations.

As a result of these operations, 30 enemy structures, five junks and 18 sampans were destroyed, and 28 structures and two sampans were damaged. In addition, 33 Viet Cong were killed (26 probables) and seven were wounded. Two Coast Guard officers and three Swift boat sailors were wounded during the month.

#### First Coastal Zone

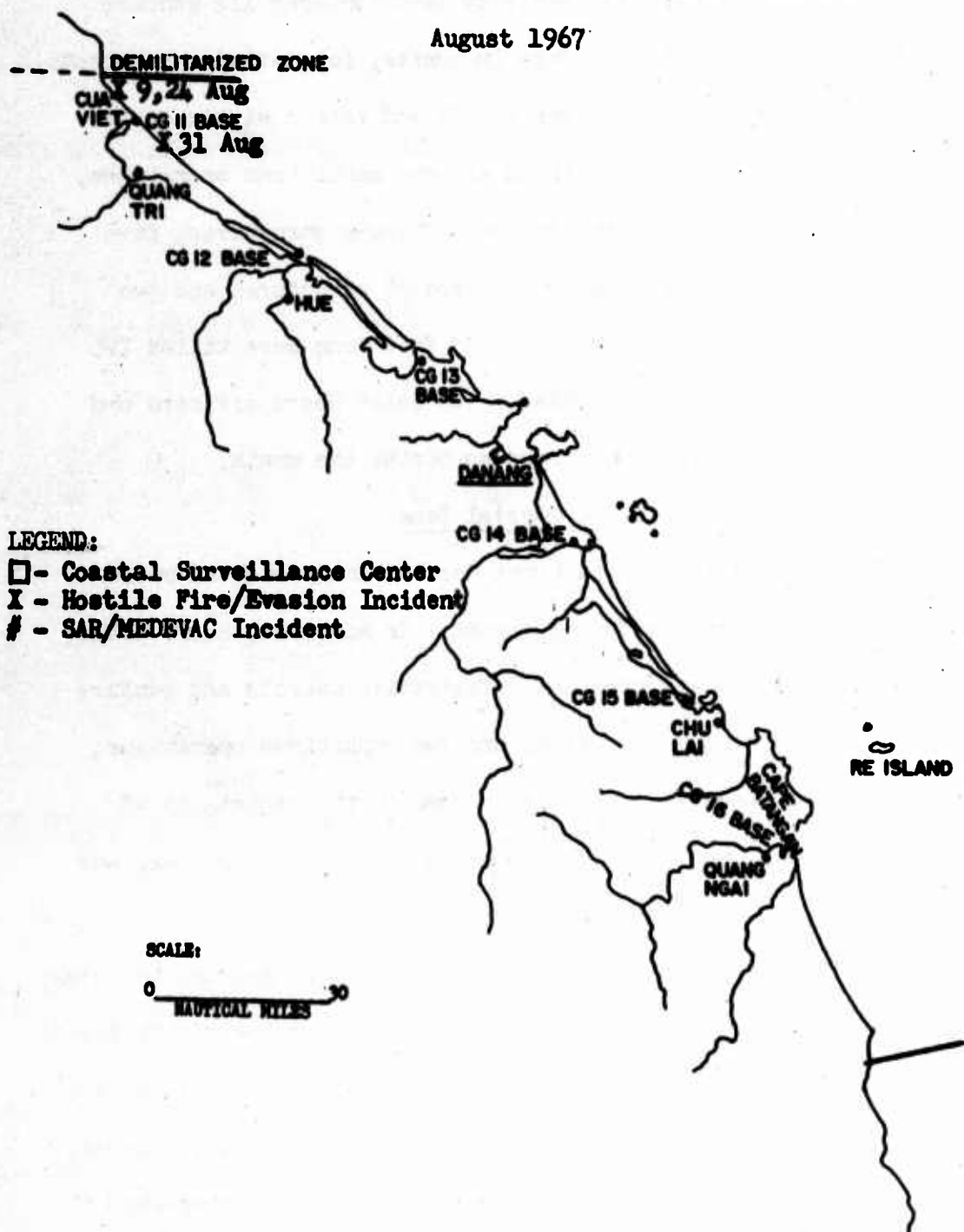
MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected over 49,000 junks and sampans during August. In addition, Swift boats and Coast Guard cutters provided exfiltration patrols and gunfire support for two ground operations and two amphibious operations. On 7 August, seven MARKET TIME craft came to the assistance of Coastal Group 16 when its base, 70 miles southeast of Danang, was assaulted by a battalion-size force of Viet Cong.

The attack on the base began at 0300. PCF 20 reached the area by 0315 and began providing 81-mm. fire at the request of the base's naval advisor; shortly thereafter PCF 75 and the Vietnamese Navy's PCE 10 arrived to lend additional fire support. By 0345, however, an advancing enemy contingent--approximately 300 in number--had overrun the base. At this time USS GALLUP (PG 85), USS CAMP (DER 251)

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# OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

August 1967



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and two other Swifts were in the area, furnishing fire support and exfiltration patrols, and helping to evacuate the wounded. Thirty-two miles to the northwest, USS WIDGEON (MSC 208) had assumed the duty of a relay station for communications between the battle scene and the First Naval Zone's headquarters unit at Danang. Since there was a possibility that the attack on the base might be combined with an infiltration attempt along the coastline, CTG 115.1, in Danang, ordered GALLUP to return to the southern portion of her patrol sector. Meanwhile, air and artillery strikes countered the enemy's movements within the Coastal Group base and two Vietnamese Army (ARVN) companies and one U. S. Army company were dispatched to the scene. By 0730 the Viet Cong were forced to retreat from the heavily-damaged base.

During the enemy attack Swift boats evacuated three Navy advisors and approximately 40 Vietnamese to USS CAMP for treatment and shelter; fifteen of the Vietnamese were subsequently transferred to the hospital at Quang Ngai by helicopter. CAMP remained on station until the 11th, providing illumination fire and gunfire support as the task of rebuilding the base was begun.

At 1400 on 9 August, 600 yards from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), PCF 51 was struck by small-arms fire from an enemy shore position. The Swift boat was soon joined by USCGC POINT ORIENT, and the PCF and the cutter each made a mortar-firing run past the

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enemy site, followed by machine-gun firing runs at close range. Air and artillery strikes were then requested, and a spotter subsequently confirmed that the enemy position had been destroyed and that at least one of the enemy had been killed. One member of the PCF's crew was wounded and was evacuated to Dong Ha for treatment.

On the 24th, one mile south of the DMZ, the commanding officer and the executive officer of USCGC POINT ELLIS were wounded by enemy fire while the cutter was firing a harassment-and-interdiction mission in support of an ARVN ground operation. The incident occurred about 1845 when two .30 caliber rounds struck the WPB's pilot house. The executive officer's wound produced paralysis and he was quickly transferred to PCF 80 and taken to USS REPOSE (AH 16) for surgery. The commanding officer's wound was less serious and he was treated on board as the cutter returned to continue and complete its mission.

On the evening of the 31st, four miles south of the Cua Viet, POINT ELLIS, POINT ORIENT and PCF 50 came to the assistance of an ARVN FIRST Division headquarters unit surrounded by a battalion-size enemy force. Firing in close support (200 yards) of the ARVN troops, the three craft helped keep the enemy pinned down until U. S. Air Force C-47s arrived to strike the enemy positions. The cutters were then released but the Swift boat remained on station, providing mortar fire until about 2315 when the engagement ended with the



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enemy in retreat.

### Second Coastal Zone

In the Second Coastal Zone MARKET TIME units detected over 48,000 junks and sampans during August. The patrol craft also participated in four search and rescue missions and supported two ground operations.

Just before noon on 3 August, 43 miles south of Qui Nhon, PCF 60 rescued a junk containing seven South Vietnamese; the craft had become disabled in heavy seas. The Swift boat provided the occupants with first aid and food, then towed the junk a distance of four miles to the Coastal Group 24 base at Tuy Hoa. In a similar incident, on the 13th, PCF 57 towed a disabled junk with four persons on board to Qui Nhon.

Shortly after midnight on 27 August a Popular Forces unit on Hon Heo Peninsula was routed from its outpost by a Viet Cong attack and was forced to re-group in a nearby village. At 0315 PCF 91 intercepted a gunfire support request radioed to PCF 61 and, within 15 minutes, PCF 91 had reached the scene and was providing .50 caliber machine-gun fire along a stretch of the beach and up toward a hill beyond the village. The officer in charge of the Swift boat then received a report that the Viet Cong had taken refuge behind a ridge of the hill; accordingly, the OinC requested approaching PCF 61 to take the ridge under indirect mortar fire. PCF 61 commenced

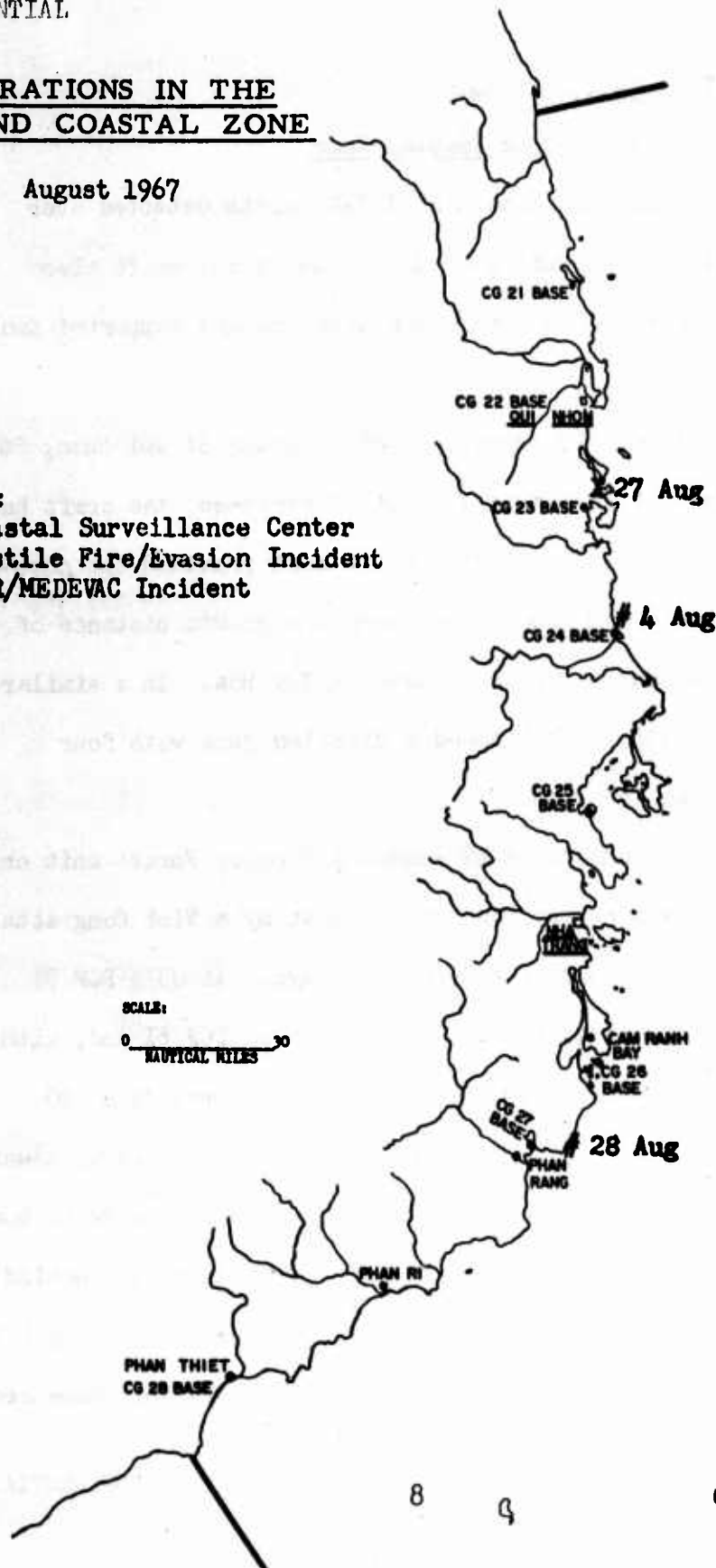
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OPERATIONS IN THE  
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

August 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- # - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident



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firing at 0345 and struck the enemy positions with spotting assistance from an ambush party dispatched to the scene by Coastal Group 23. At this time PCF 88 joined the engagement and was directed to proceed to a position northwest of the peninsula and act as a blocking unit. By 0430 the enemy attack was completely disrupted and the Viet Cong dispersed, leaving behind five of their dead; several others, either killed or wounded, were carried away. One member of the Popular Forces was killed during the attack and another was wounded. There were no U. S. casualties.

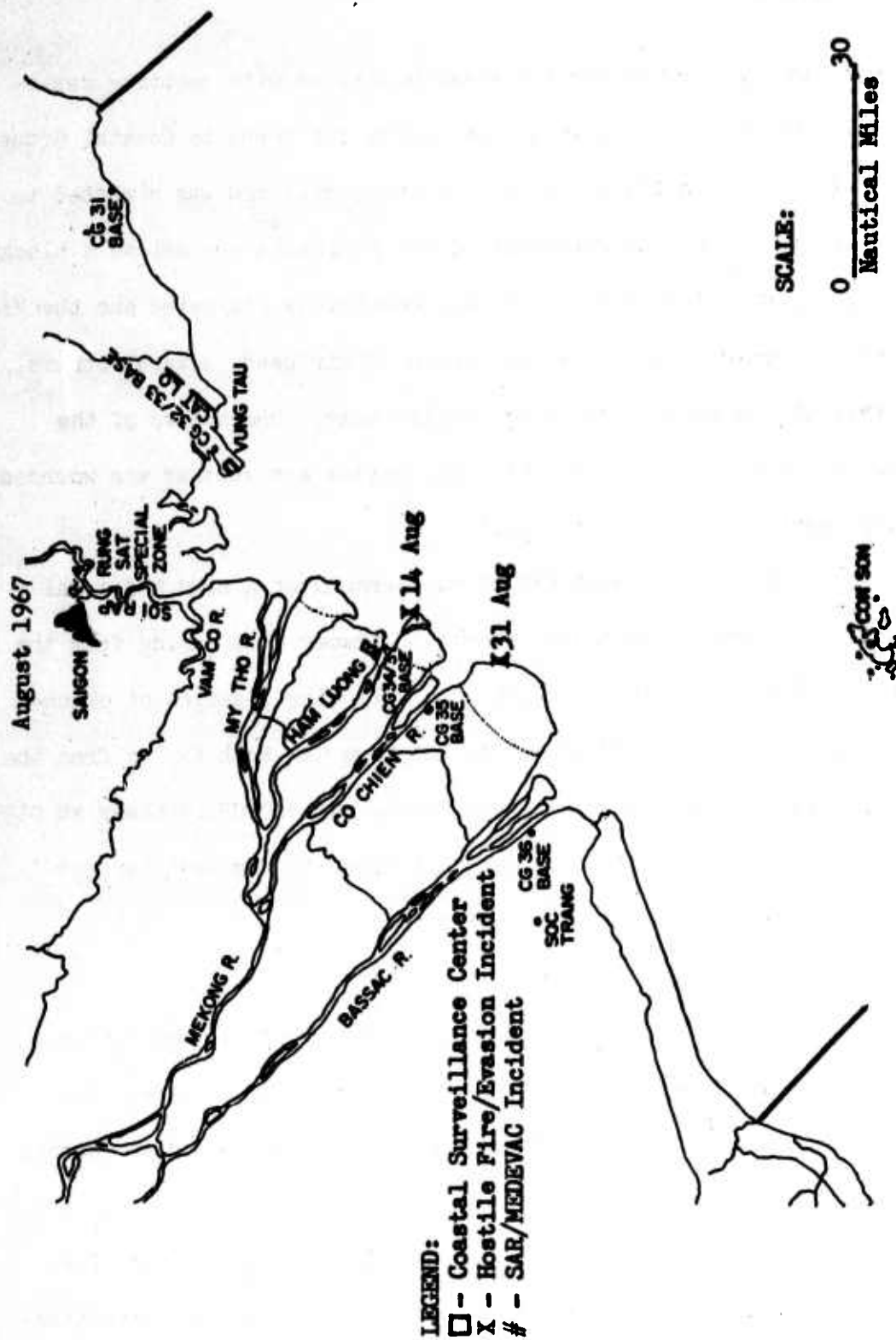
At 1245 on 28 August PCF 82 ran aground on a sand and coral reef while investigating the source of tracer fire coming from the beach, 38 miles south of Nha Trang. Following a series of unsuccessful attempts by PCF 47 and an LCM from Cam Ranh Bay to free the Swift boat, a commercial tug, NEZ PERCE, pulled PCF 82 clear at 0335 on the 30th. The Swift boat was then towed to Cam Ranh Bay for repairs to its struts, shafts and screws.

#### Third Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Third Coastal Zone during August detected over 8,000 junks and sampans. In addition, the patrol craft participated in one medical evacuation and two search and rescue missions.

On the afternoon of 14 August, PCF 68 came under heavy fire from Viet Cong emplacements while conducting a routine inspection

## **OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE**



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of fishing junks. The incident occurred 700 yards offshore from the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, 36 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The Swift boat had just completed inspecting one group of junks and was proceeding to a second group when the enemy opened fire with at least one recoilless rifle and several machine guns and automatic rifles. Although none of the rounds struck the PCF, two rounds passed directly overhead and two others fell just short of the craft. After initially maneuvering away from the Viet Cong positions, the officer in charge of the PCF then ordered a reversal of course toward the ambush site in order to keep the fishing boats out of the line of fire. The Swift boat's machine-gun and mortar fire then suppressed the enemy's outburst and destroyed a trenchline. Subsequently, two Air Force F-100s and a Navy "Seawolf" helicopter team struck the Viet Cong site, destroying seven enemy structures and three bunkers. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the evening of the 31st, 50 miles southwest of Vung Tau, USCGC POINT HUDSON conducted a gunfire mission against four Viet Cong junks in the Long Toan Secret Zone. The camouflaged 70-foot craft were initially detected by an airborne spotter who subsequently radioed corrections as the cutter's 81-mm. mortars struck the target area. The spotter reported later that the gunfire had damaged three of the junks extensively and that the fourth junk had sustained at least one direct hit.

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Fourth Coastal Zone

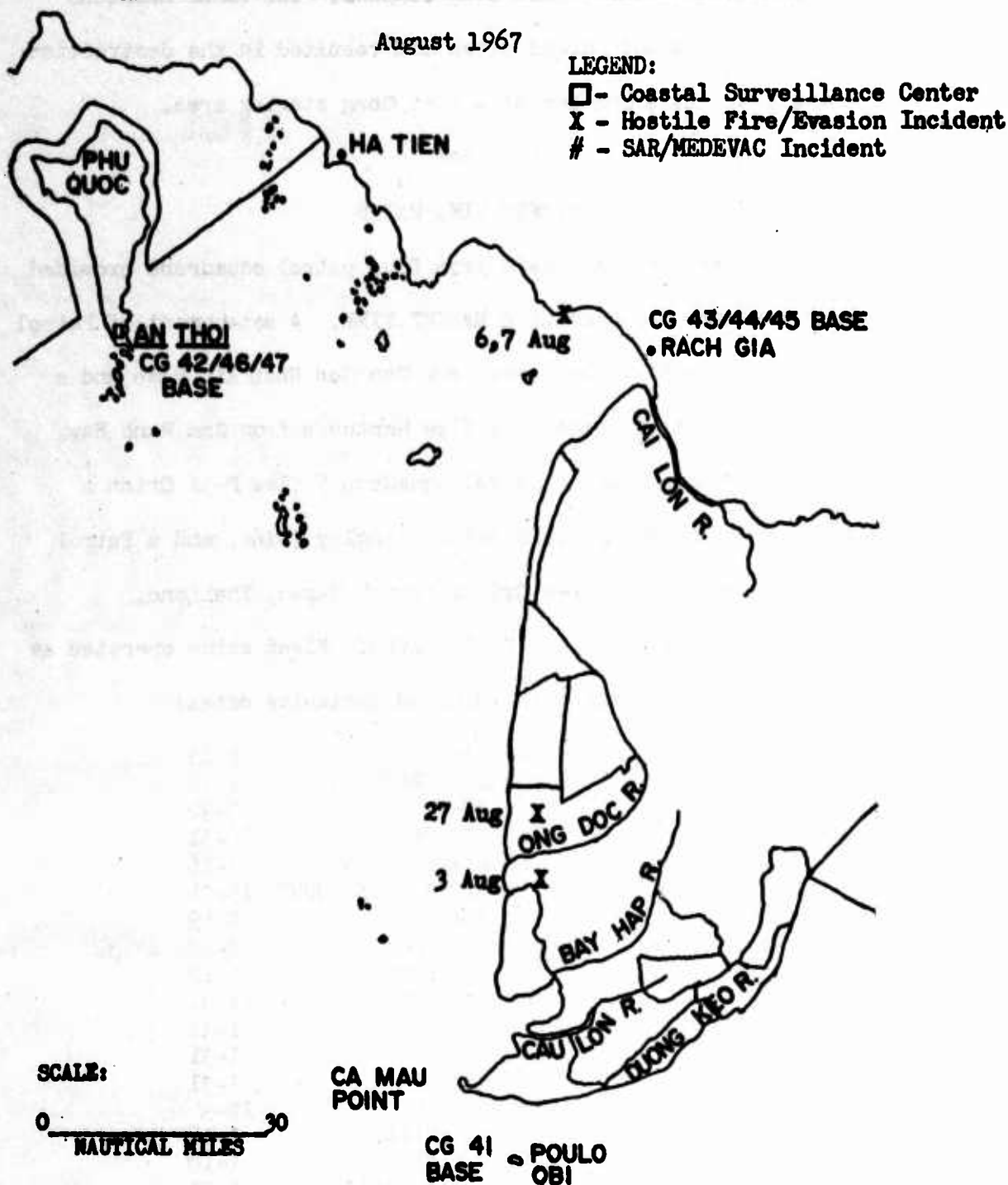
In August MARKET TIME units patrolling the west coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula and the waters surrounding Phu Quoc Island detected over 9,000 junks and sampans, and conducted a number of gunfire support missions. Most of the gunfire missions occurred either in the area located 30 miles north of Ca Mau Point or in the region that lies 15 miles northwest of Rach Gia.

On 3 August, USCGC POINT CLEAR fired 54 rounds of 81-mm. mortars against a Viet Cong supply site north of Ca Mau Point. The barrage detonated 12 secondary explosions and a large petroleum fire which burned for two hours and triggered 15 more explosions as fuel storage containers erupted. Later in the month, in the same area, four gunfire missions resulted in the destruction of two enemy structures and three sampans in addition to initiating secondary fires. On the 27th, five miles farther north, USCGC HALF MOON (WHEC 378) conducted a gunfire mission against a Viet Cong troop concentration. Subsequent intelligence reports indicated that the gunfire killed 11 Viet Cong, destroyed three enemy structures and extensively damaged 15 others, and destroyed or damaged a large quantity of equipment.

On 6 and 7 August there were four separate gunfire missions conducted against enemy positions northwest of Rach Gia. One of the missions--involving enemy craft along the shore--resulted in

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OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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the destruction of three Viet Cong sampans. The other missions were directed against inland sites and resulted in the destruction of a trail and cave complex at a Viet Cong staging area.

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#### MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 flew SP-2A Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of Patrol Squadron 5 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a Patrol Squadron 47 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

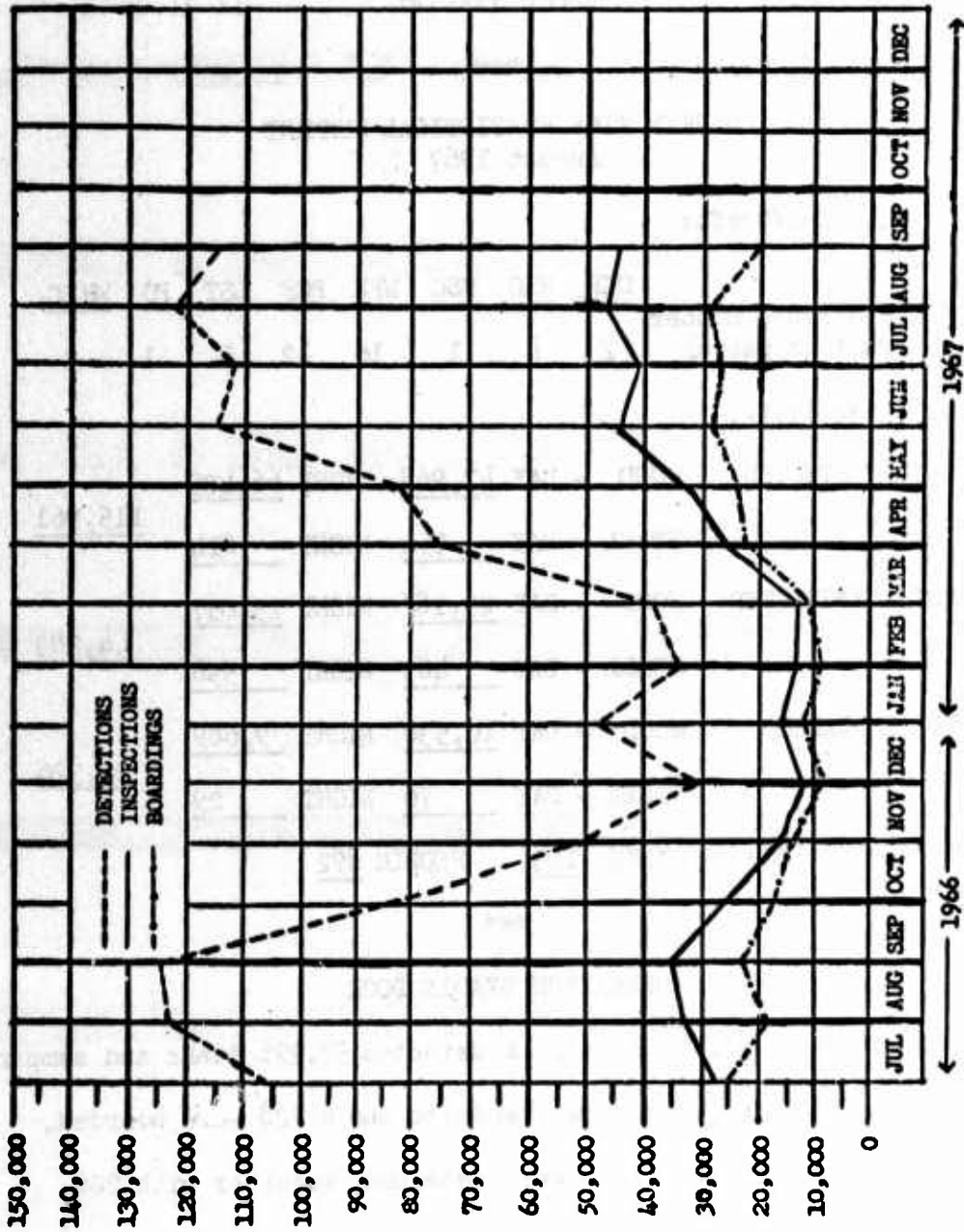
In August the following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

DER 251	USS CAMP	1-23
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	1-18
DER 322	USS NEWELL	23-31
DER 386	USS SAVAGE	18-31
LST 601	USS CLARKE COUNTY	1-15
LST 901	USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY	15-31
MSC 198	USS PEACOCK	1-19
MSC 208	USS WIDGEON	2-18, 19-31
MSO 488	USS CONQUEST	1-12
MSO 437	USS ENHANCE	18-31
MSO 439	USS EXCEL	1-31
MSO 447	USS GUIDE	1-31
MSO 490	USS LEADER	1-31
MSO 458	USS LUCID	12-31
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	1-18
PG 85	USS GALLUP	1-18
WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	1-11



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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	8-31
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	1-24
WHEC 378	USCGC HALF MOON	1-8, 24-31
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	11-31

\*\*\*

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
August 1967

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	<u>DER</u>	<u>MSO</u>	<u>MSC</u>	<u>WPB</u>	<u>PCF</u>	<u>LST</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>WHEC</u>
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	16	42	1	1	3

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>47,968</u>	NIGHT	<u>66,425</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>754</u>	NIGHT	<u>814</u>	<u>115,961</u>
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>20,185</u>	NIGHT	<u>23,057</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>483</u>	NIGHT	<u>558</u>	<u>44,283</u>
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	<u>10,538</u>	NIGHT	<u>9,689</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>70</u>	NIGHT	<u>29</u>	<u>20,326</u>
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS	<u>103</u>	PEOPLE	<u>892</u>	

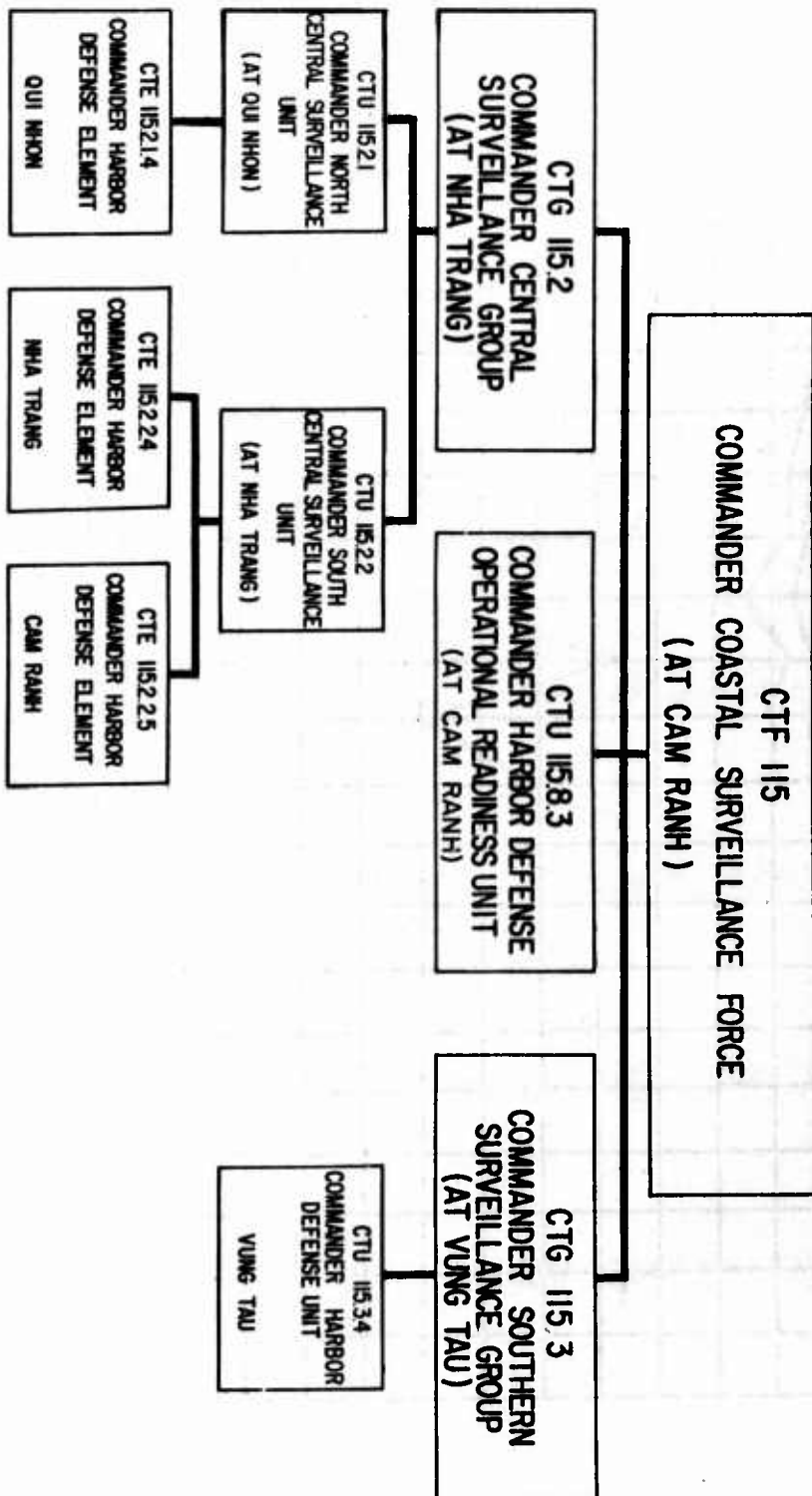
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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 52,296 junks and sampans in August; 9,315 of these were inspected and 4,928 were boarded. Twenty-seven suspicious craft were detained, together with 206 persons.

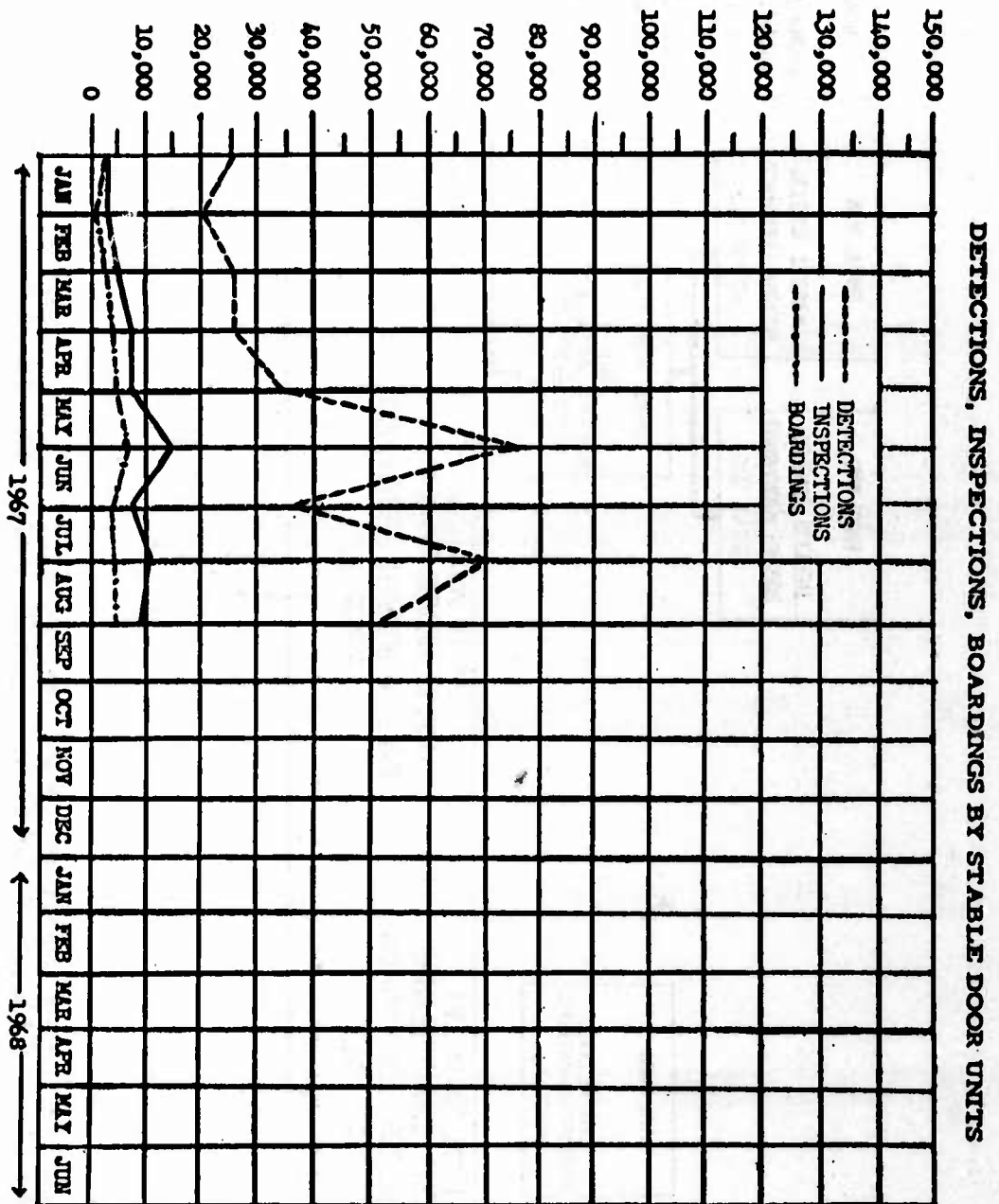
During the month Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) at

# STABLE DOOR TASK ORGANIZATION



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One of the newly arrived 45-foot picket boats on patrol in Cam Ranh Bay.

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Vung Tau provided surveillance for a daily average of 14 ships anchored in the harbor. The craft conducting the STABLE DOOR patrols detained 55 persons and 12 junks either for improper identification papers or for suspicious activity.

At Cam Ranh Bay IUWU 2 detained 33 suspects and provided surveillance for a daily average of 30 ships. At Qui Nhon IUWU 3 detained six junks and 12 suspects while providing surveillance for a daily average of 21 ships in port. Meanwhile, IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained nine junks and 106 suspects, and provided surveillance for a daily average of 14 ships in port.

On the morning of 17 July a GAME WARDEN helicopter crashed into the outer harbor at Vung Tau, about one-half mile from the STABLE DOOR harbor control post. Three of the four men aboard the aircraft were picked up by a fishing junk in the area and transferred to patrol units. Royal Australian Navy divers, members of IUWU 1's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, found the helicopter's hull the following morning. The body of the fourth crewman was not recovered.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During August the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone were the scenes of several, largely unsuccessful Viet Cong attacks. On the 1st a merchant ship was attacked in Saigon's main channel, the first such incident to occur in the Long Tau River since April. Two days later the naval base at Nha Be was struck by mortar and recoilless-rifle fire; naval units reacted promptly and the quick response helped keep casualties and damage to a minimum.

Meanwhile, along the Delta's Ham Luong River, prompt action by GAME WARDEN units thwarted two enemy attacks aimed at the base of Coastal Groups 34 and 37. Acting on intelligence reports that the attacks were imminent, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) and PBRs from River Section 521 helped disrupt and disperse the Viet Cong units.

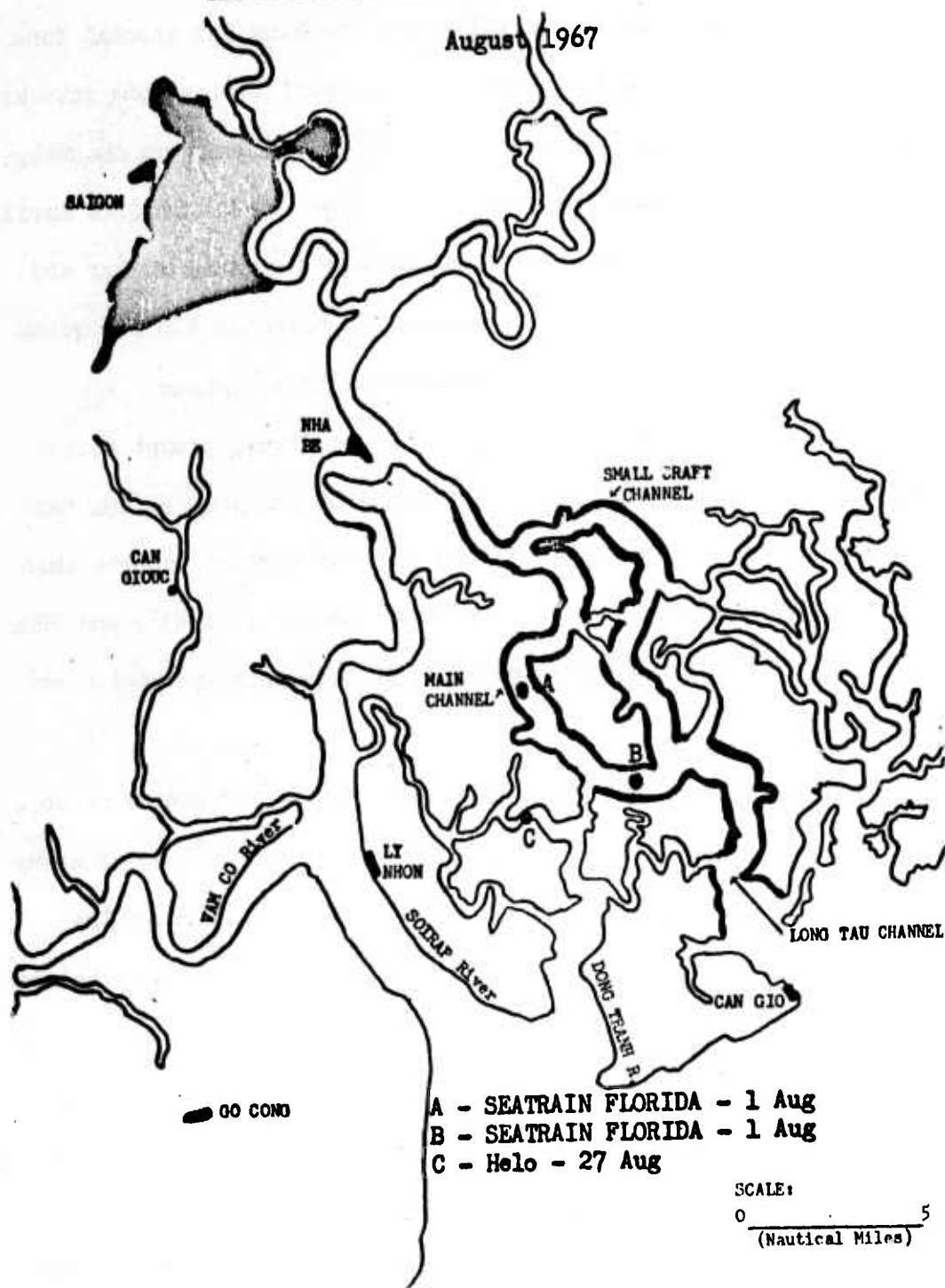
On the 13th, My Tho-based PBRs came to the assistance of an outpost in Ngu Hiep village after it had been attacked by an enemy unit. Fire from the leading boat of a PBR patrol silenced the Viet Cong positions, and members of the patrol subsequently helped evacuate the Vietnamese who were wounded during the attack.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On the morning of 1 August, 12 miles southeast of Nha Be, a U. S. merchantman, SEATRAN FLORIDA, was attacked from the river bank by Viet Cong riflemen and machine-gunners. The outburst was

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS



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quickly suppressed by PBRs and an Army helicopter fire team during a brief following action in which three Viet Cong were killed and one helicopter was damaged.

Forty-five minutes later, five miles farther upstream, SEATRIN FLORIDA came under heavy automatic-weapons and recoilless-rifle fire from the east bank of the Long Tau River. Once again the PBRs and helicopters launched an immediate counterattack, with the patrol boats delivering 60-mm. mortar fire against the enemy positions while the helicopters struck members of the enemy contingent fleeing inland. At least four Viet Cong were killed during the two attacks. There were no U. S. casualties.

On the 3rd, five minutes after midnight, an enemy unit emplaced on the east bank of the Long Tau struck the base at Nha Be and the nearby petroleum tank farms with mortars and recoilless-rifle fire. Within minutes, moored craft got underway and formed counterattack positions while two helicopter fire teams struck the enemy sites.

An AC-47 and an F-100 subsequently joined the GAME WARDEN units and the combined firepower broke up the Viet Cong attack and forced the enemy to flee. Twenty-four naval personnel were wounded during the engagement, none seriously, and a dry-docked MSB sustained extensive damage when it received a direct mortar hit; a number of PBRs and MSBs suffered minor damage. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

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## DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

### Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

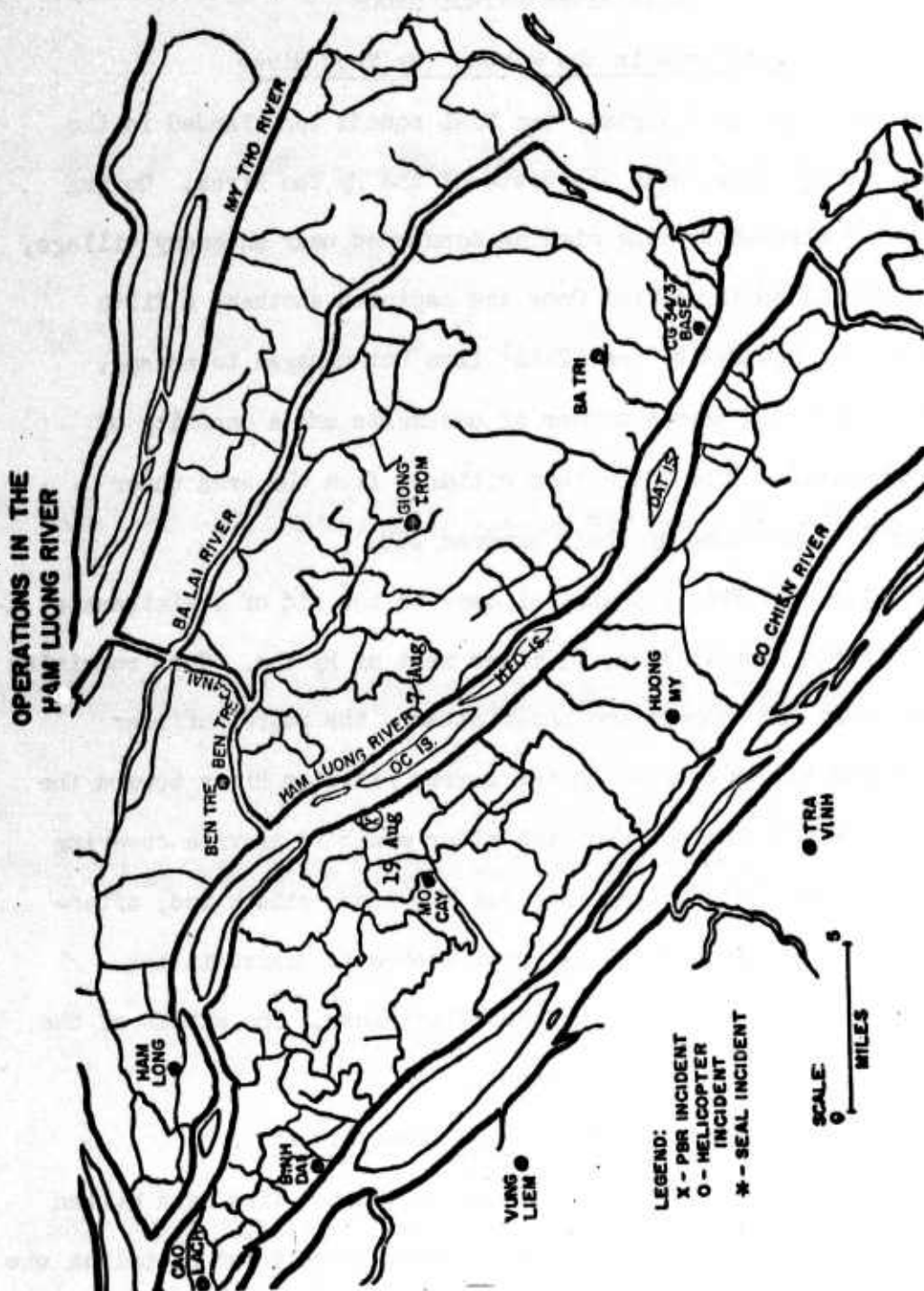
On the night of 1 August, two SEAL squads were landed in the Binh Dai Secret Zone, near the mouth of the My Tho River. During the ensuing three-hour long mission conducted near an enemy village, the squads killed three Viet Cong and captured another; a fifth Viet Cong was wounded by the SEALs' fire but managed to escape. Seized in the raid were a number of documents and a quantity of enemy ammunition. The SEALs then withdrew from the area under covering fire provided by their armored LCM.

On 13 August PBRs 125 and 131 came to the aid of a Vietnamese outpost in Ngu Hiep village, 13 miles west of My Tho. Upon receiving a report that the outpost was under attack, the patrol officer directed PBR 131 to proceed up the narrow Nam Thon River toward the village; PBR 125 remained near the river mouth to provide covering fire. The PBRs' fire helped suppress the enemy attack and, afterward, three crewmen from PBR 131 went ashore to assist in the evacuation, to My Tho, of 19 wounded Vietnamese. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

### Operations in the Ham Luong River

On the morning of 7 August a Navy helicopter fire team killed at least 10 members of the Viet Cong's main-force 261st Battalion who were establishing a bunkered ambush site along a stretch of the Ham

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Luong River. Acting on an intelligence report relayed by the Vietnamese commander of Kien Hoa sector, the helicopters struck the enemy positions, which were located along the north bank of the river, six and one-half miles south of Ben Tre. The Viet Cong's return fire was suppressed by the helicopters and, in addition, two enemy sampans and two structures were destroyed. There were no U. S. casualties.

On 19 August, five miles southeast of Ben Tre, a water-taxi operator hailed PBRs 96 and 105 and reported that he had just been forced to pay Viet Cong "taxes." The PBRs and two accompanying helicopters then entered a stream on the south bank of the river and proceeded toward the collection site. As the patrol approached, enemy troops on the bank opened fire on the PBRs with small arms. The PBRs returned the fire and the helicopters swept in to strike at the Viet Cong contingent, forcing the unit to flee from the area. One U. S. sailor suffered minor wounds during the engagement. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the night of 29 August USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) helped repel an enemy attack on the Coastal Group 34/37 base, 22 miles southeast of Ben Tre. The LST's 40-mm. fire (which killed at least two Viet Cong) and additional support provided by the PBRs of River Section 521, dispersed the concentration of enemy troops. A similar incident occurred the following night, and

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HUNTERDON COUNTY's gunfire support again helped to disrupt an imminent enemy attack.

Operations in the Co Chien River

In an attempt to frustrate and discredit PBR patrol methods, the Viet Cong frequently confiscate the identification cards of Delta residents. Sometimes the seizures are accompanied by threatened reprisals unless the residents obtain rice to help alleviate the Viet Cong's growing food shortage.

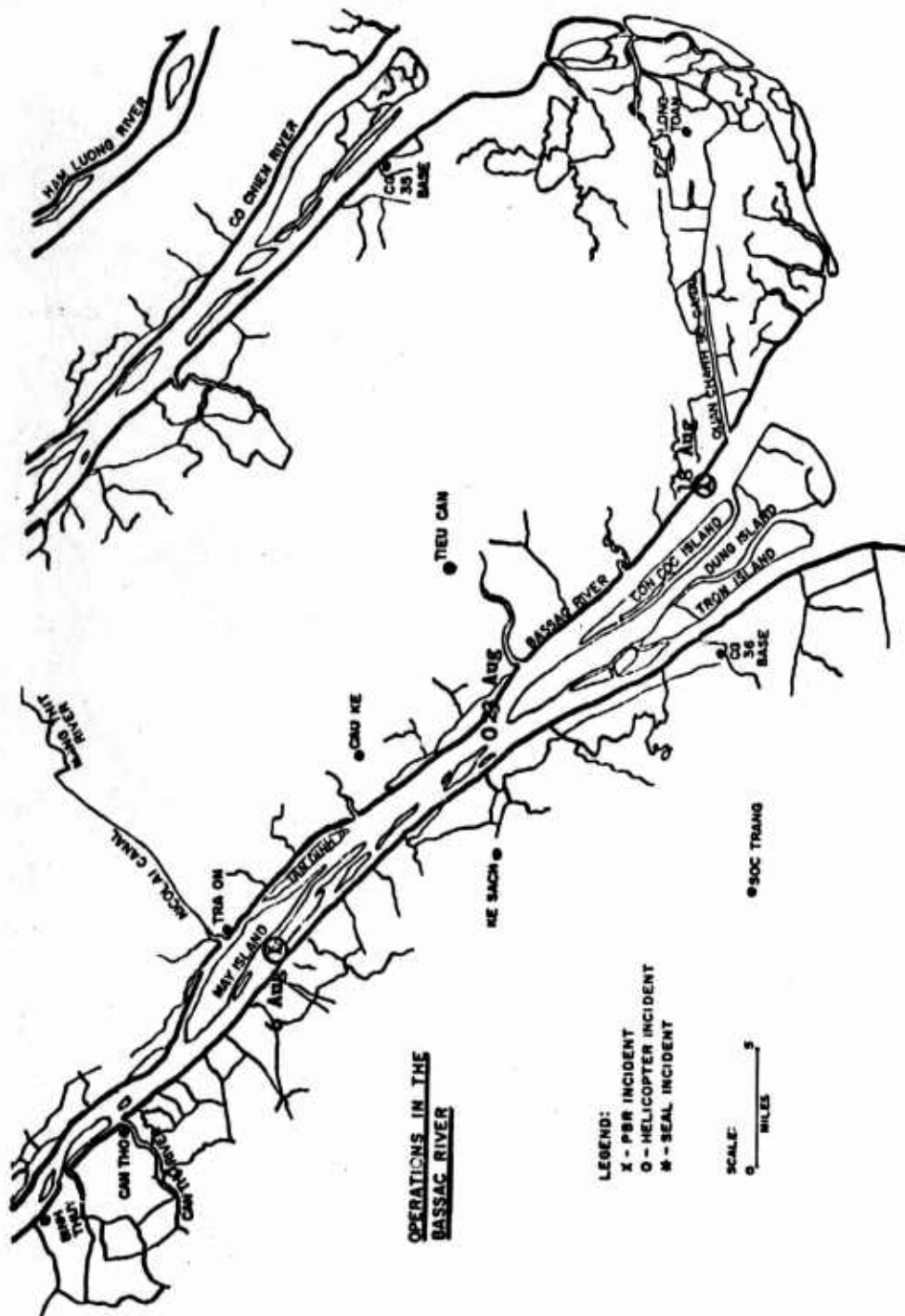
On 19 August, 17 miles south of Ben Tre, a water-taxi came alongside PBR 122 during the PBR's routine inspection of various craft in the area. The taxi contained 800 pounds of rice and 18 females, aged 15 to 22, all of them residents of Thanh Thoi, in Kien Hoa province; none of the occupants possessed an ID card. Although distraught and reluctant to speak at first, the group eventually disclosed that their ID cards had been confiscated by the Viet Cong and the lives of their families threatened unless the girls proceeded to Phu Vinh, in Vinh Binh province, and purchased rice for the Viet Cong. During the questioning, the taxi owner produced a list prepared by the Viet Cong indicating the amount of rice each girl was to purchase. The taxi and its occupants were subsequently delivered to Vietnamese authorities at the Coastal Group 35 base for further interrogation and disposition.

On 22 August, in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, two GAME WARDEN





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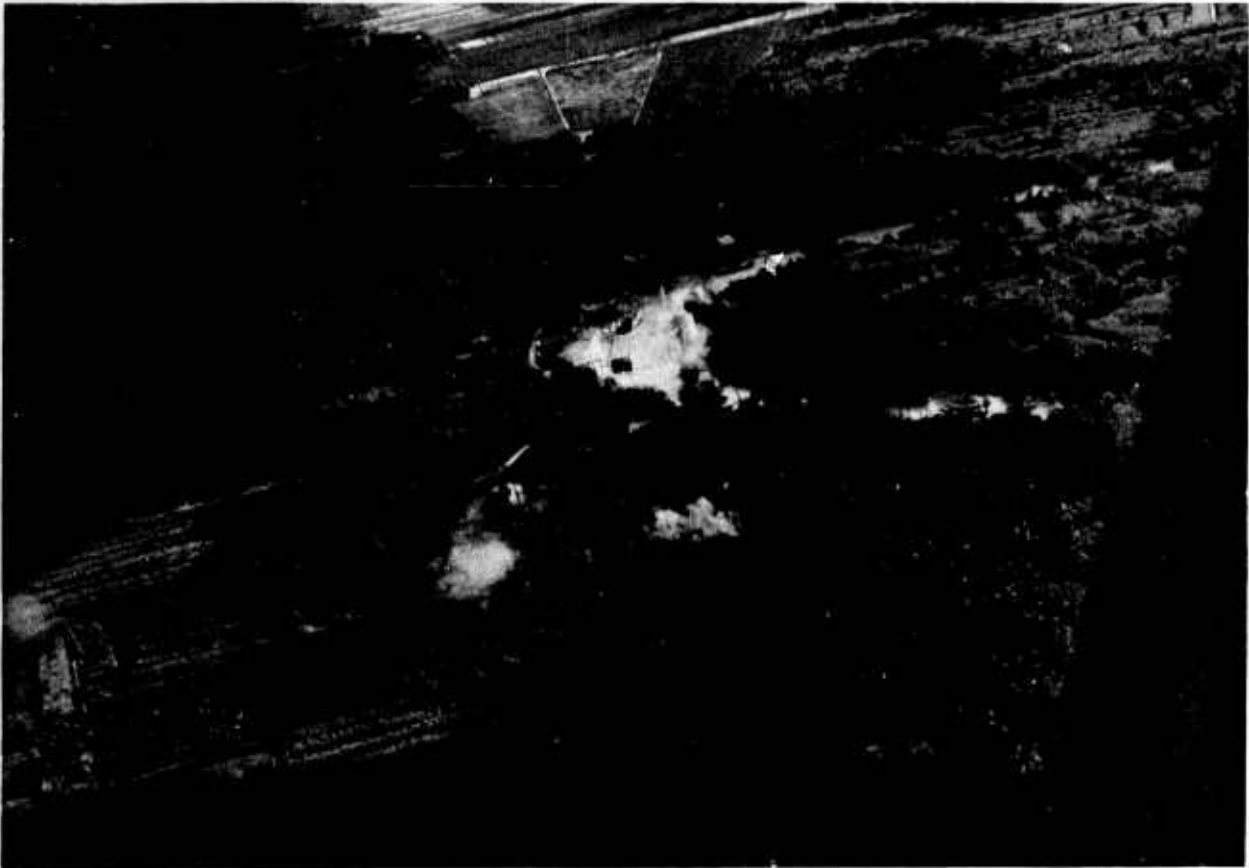
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helicopters that had just completed a spotting mission for the mortar fire of a PBR patrol, attacked a concentration of 120 Viet Cong sampans. In the course of conducting numerous firing runs, the aircraft destroyed approximately 60 of the enemy craft. During the strikes a round of sniper fire hit one of the co-pilots, Lieutenant Junior Grade Thomas E. GILLIAM, USN; the bullet penetrated his left breast plate and lodged near his heart. The helicopters immediately broke off their attack, sped to nearby USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) and embarked a corpsman to provide initial treatment, then headed for the medical facility at Dong Tam. LTJG GILLIAM died en route.

#### Operations in the Bassac River

On 6 August, 13 miles downstream from Can Tho, PBRs 90 and 146 detected a twin-engine sampan headed toward the beach near May Island. As the patrol approached to investigate, the PBRs came under small-arms fire from enemy positions on the island. The PBRs turned and trained their weapons on the Viet Cong site, suppressing the enemy outburst with a barrage of machine-gun fire. In the meantime the occupants of the sampan beached their craft and fled. As the PBRs made for the sampan, heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire from the opposite bank blocked the attempt, forcing the patrol to request air support. Moments later a Navy helicopter fire team arrived and supported the PBR fire with a series of strikes against

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A Navy helicopter team comes under small-arms fire while making a run on a cargo-laden Viet Cong sampan...

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The sampan is struck by rocket fire as it approaches two moored sampans. Incident occurred 8 August on Dung Island.

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the enemy positions. The sampan was then seized and was found to contain Viet Cong uniforms, ammunition, medical supplies and a number of documents. At least three Viet Cong were killed during the engagement. One of the PBR crewmen suffered minor wounds.

On 9 August, a PBR patrol operating in the vicinity of Dung Island was approached by a sampan containing a single occupant. The occupant stated that he had been a Viet Cong and had decided to rally to the cause of the Vietnamese Government. During the next few days, the rallier provided interrogators with a great deal of reliable information about Viet Cong installations and the intelligence led to several successful raids on enemy facilities in the Dung Island area. During one of the raids, SEALs, Vietnamese UDT personnel and elements of River Assault Groups 25 and 29 attacked enemy sites in the northern part of Dung Island, destroying over 50 structures, 14 bunkers, six sampans and several tons of rice. At least two Viet Cong were killed in the operation and two Viet Cong leaders were captured. At the same time the family of the rallier, living on the island, was evacuated to safety.

On 18 August PBR 59, the second boat of a PBR patrol in the lower Bassac, was hit by a B-40 rocket while the craft was en route to a patrol area near the mouth of the river. The rocket wounded three members of the crew and caused extensive damage to the boat. The patrol was then joined by a second PBR patrol and a Navy

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helicopter fire team and the GAME WARDEN units struck and silenced the enemy positions and triggered a large secondary explosion. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

**GAME WARDEN Helicopter Losses**

During August three UH-1B helicopters were lost as a result of mishaps that did not involve hostile fire. On 17 August, one crewman was killed when a UH-1B crashed short of the runway at Vung Tau. On the 23rd a helicopter was forced to ditch in the Bassac River, near the north end of Dung Island; the entire crew was rescued. On 27 August a helicopter crashed in the Dinh Ba River, 15 miles southeast of Nha Be, killing one of the crew.

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**GAME WARDEN UNITS**

On 23 August, USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) relieved USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) as GAME WARDEN support ship at the mouth of the Co Chien River. Embarked in HARNETT COUNTY were River Section 531 and HA(L)-3 (Det 5).

On 24 August River Section 533, which had been embarked in JENNINGS COUNTY, commenced operations as Task Element 116.1.3.1, based at My Tho.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
August 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

- a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 588 Night 704
- b. Total Contacts: Day 68,349 Night 5,222
- c. Total Inspected: Day 13,526 Night 857
- d. Total Boarded: Day 42,270 Night 3,408
- e. People Detained: 542
- f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 42
- g. Total Patrol Hours: 35,069

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

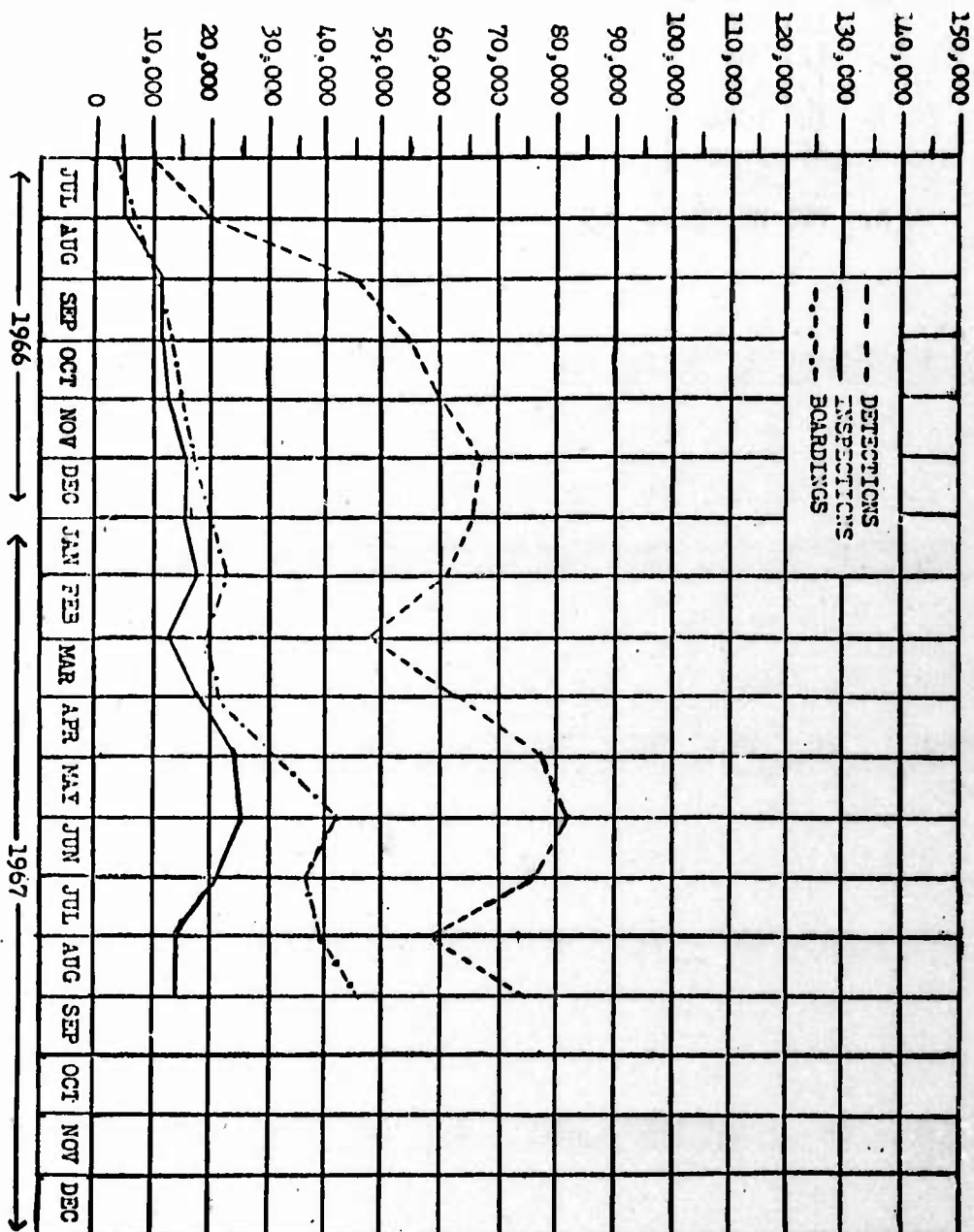
- a. Total Flight Hours: 868
- b. Helo Missions:
  - (1) Pre-planned strikes: 65
  - (2) Reaction: 44
  - (3) Targets of Opportunity: 63
  - (4) Support: 183

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

- a. Fire Fights:
  - (1) PBR 45
  - (2) Helo 17
  - (3) LCM 1
  - (4) RPC 1
- b. Sampans: Destroyed 125 Damaged 19 Captured 6
- c. Structures: Destroyed 206 Damaged 44
- d. Bunkers: Destroyed 54 Damaged 1
- e. Enemy: KIA 80 KIA (Poss.) 21 WIA 12 Captured 8

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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f. Friendly: KIA 1 WIA 53

g. Friendly Battle Damage:

(1) PBR	<u>8</u>
(2) MSB	<u>4</u>
(3) LCM	<u>1</u>
(4) LCPL	<u>1</u>
(5) Base	<u>1</u>

h. PBR MEDEVAC: 65

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

On the first day of the month, in the Cam Son Secret Zone west of Dong Tam, the Mobile Riverine Force concluded Operation CORONADO II, which began in late July. During CORONADO II the MRF operated in conjunction with units of the Vietnamese Army and the Vietnamese Marine Corps, and the combined forces routed two Viet Cong battalions and destroyed numerous enemy installations.

On 8 August, while the MRF was conducting operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone, the first nighttime medical evacuation mission involving an armored troop carrier was completed successfully. Flight deck lights were installed on the ATC(H) and a helicopter was guided to the landing platform by a landing signal officer using luminous wands. As a result, three wounded personnel, two of whom were stretcher cases, were evacuated expeditiously.

During the latter part of August the MRF conducted Operation CORONADO IV, in the Ben Luc district of Long An province. Although the operation failed to produce any major contact with enemy forces, CORONADO IV produced certain logistical considerations--occasioned by the 40-mile distance between operating units and the Mobile Riverine Base--that were uniquely resolved.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

On 1 August the Mobile Riverine Force completed Operation CORONADO II, a search and destroy mission conducted against

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An Army helicopter lands on board an ATC(H) during a medical evacuation mission in the Delta.

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main-force elements of the Viet Cong's 261st and 263rd Battalions and the 514th Dinh Tuong Provincial Mobile Battalion. The operation, which began on 28 July, was designed to counter an enemy threat against lines of communications in Dinh Tuong province and to ease the mounting pressure on the U. S. base at Dong Tam.

Total enemy losses during CORONADO II and a concurrent ARVN operation (CUU LONG 64) included 675 killed. In addition, over 500 suspects were detained. Among the 68 Viet Cong captured was the deputy commander of the 263rd Battalion; under interrogation the prisoner revealed that his battalion commander had been killed during the operation. Subsequent intelligence reports indicated that the structure and resources of the 263rd and 514th Battalions were severely disrupted by the combined operations. Of the enemy casualties, 73 were killed by elements of the MRF and 122 by Vietnamese Marines operating in close coordination with the MRF. At the same time, nine U. S. soldiers were killed and 31 sailors and soldiers were wounded. At least 12 craft of the Riverine Assault Force were struck by heavy-weapons fire during the operation; however, none were damaged seriously.

Upon completion of CORONADO II, Major General George G. O'CONNOR, USA, Commanding General, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division, sent the following message to CTF 117 and the Commanding Officer, Second Infantry Brigade:

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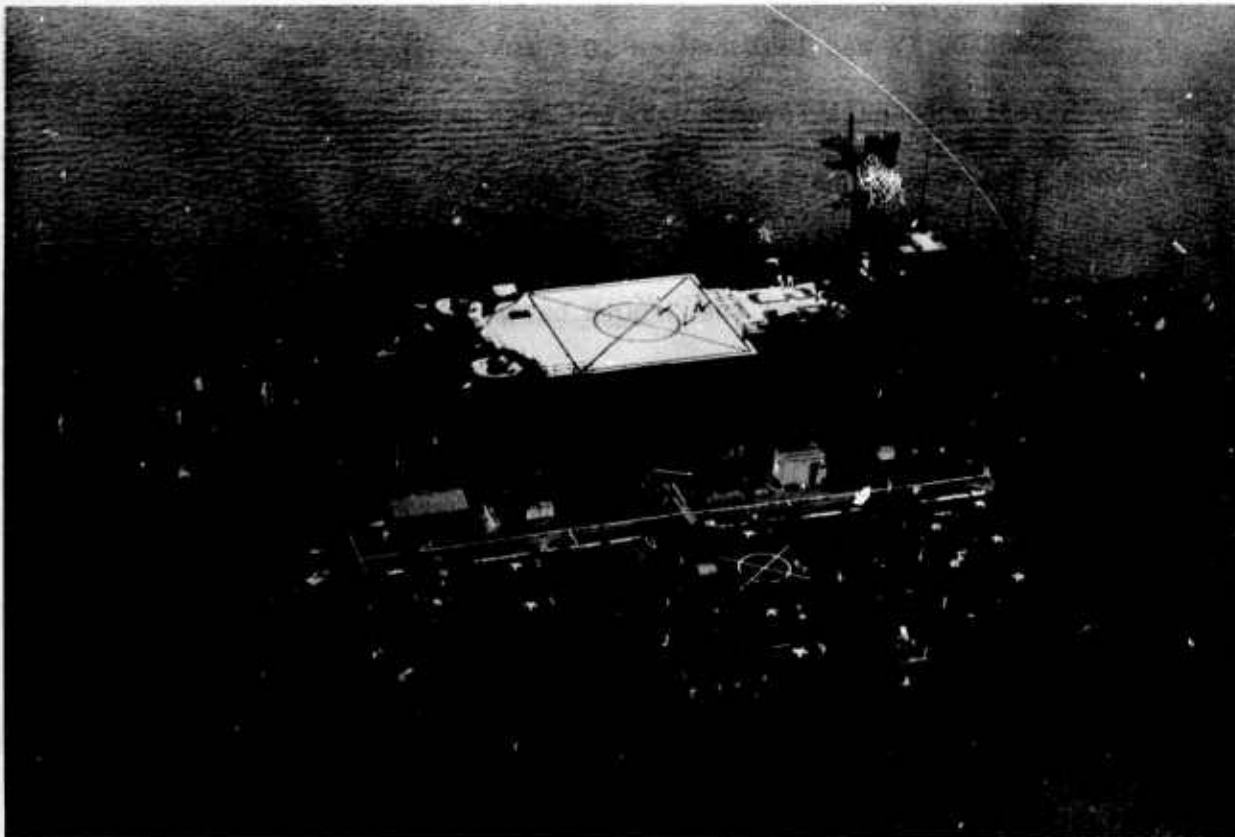
1. I WISH TO EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE DURING OPERATION CORONADO II.
2. THE RAPID REACTION AND RELOCATION OF YOUR FORCES FROM CAN GIOUC TO DING TUONG PROVINCE WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION. THE DARING SORTIES BY BOTH NAVAL AND ARMY ELEMENTS OF THE FORCE WERE HIGHLY INSTRUMENTAL IN FINDING AND FIXING THE ENEMY. THE BLOCKS PROVIDED ON SUCCEEDING DAYS AFTER THE ENEMY DISPERSED WERE ESPECIALLY REMUNERATIVE. THE MRF HAS CONFIRMED ITS REPUTATION AS A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND VERSATILE FIGHTING FORCE AND AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT RIVERINE WARFARE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.
3. PLEASE PASS ON TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF YOUR FORCE MY CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

Operations in the III Corps Tactical Zone

On 4 August the Mobile Riverine Force moved to Vung Tau and, on the 7th, commenced Operation GREAT BEND IV (later re-named CORONADO III) in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Between the 7th and the 16th, search and destroy missions were carried out in the Can Gio and Quang Xuyen districts of Gia Dinh province; the operations were aimed primarily at reducing Viet Cong pressure on the main shipping channel to Saigon. Light contact with the enemy occurred during this period as MRF elements destroyed seven enemy bunkers (three by naval gunfire) and seized a quantity of weapons and explosives.

On 18 August the Mobile Riverine Base moved to the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers to prepare for Operation CORONADO IV. Since the scope of CORONADO IV involved the conduct of certain missions at a considerable distance from the MRB (up to 40 miles),

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Monitors and Armored Troop Carriers nested alongside the flagship of the Riverine Assault Force, USS BENEWAH (APB 35).

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the operation's logistical aspects received special emphasis during the planning stage. As a result, it was decided to load six ATCs with all classes of supplies, and to position the craft six miles from the area of operations to serve as forward supply points.

CORONADO IV was launched on 20 August. Initially, units of the Riverine Assault Force conducted reconnaissance-by-fire missions along the banks of the Vam Co River, 38 miles from the MRB. Following the reconnaissance phase, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division troops of the 3/47th and the 3/60th battalions were landed on both banks of the river. The subsequent search and destroy sweeps failed to produce any major contact with enemy forces. However, in the course of conducting a series of small-unit skirmishes, troop elements killed 49 Viet Cong and seized a number of weapons. Six U. S. soldiers were wounded during the two-day mission. Throughout the operation the supplies loaded in the ATCs were fully utilized and effectively forestalled any logistical problems that might have otherwise developed.

On the second day of the operation, the boats assigned to the forward area were re-fueled from a tanker truck. Because of the prevalence of soft mud banks, the truck was unable to approach close enough to the river to reach the boats. Accordingly, the truck and craft were diverted to a nearby bridge at Ben Luc. There the truck lowered its fuel hoses over the sides of the bridge and

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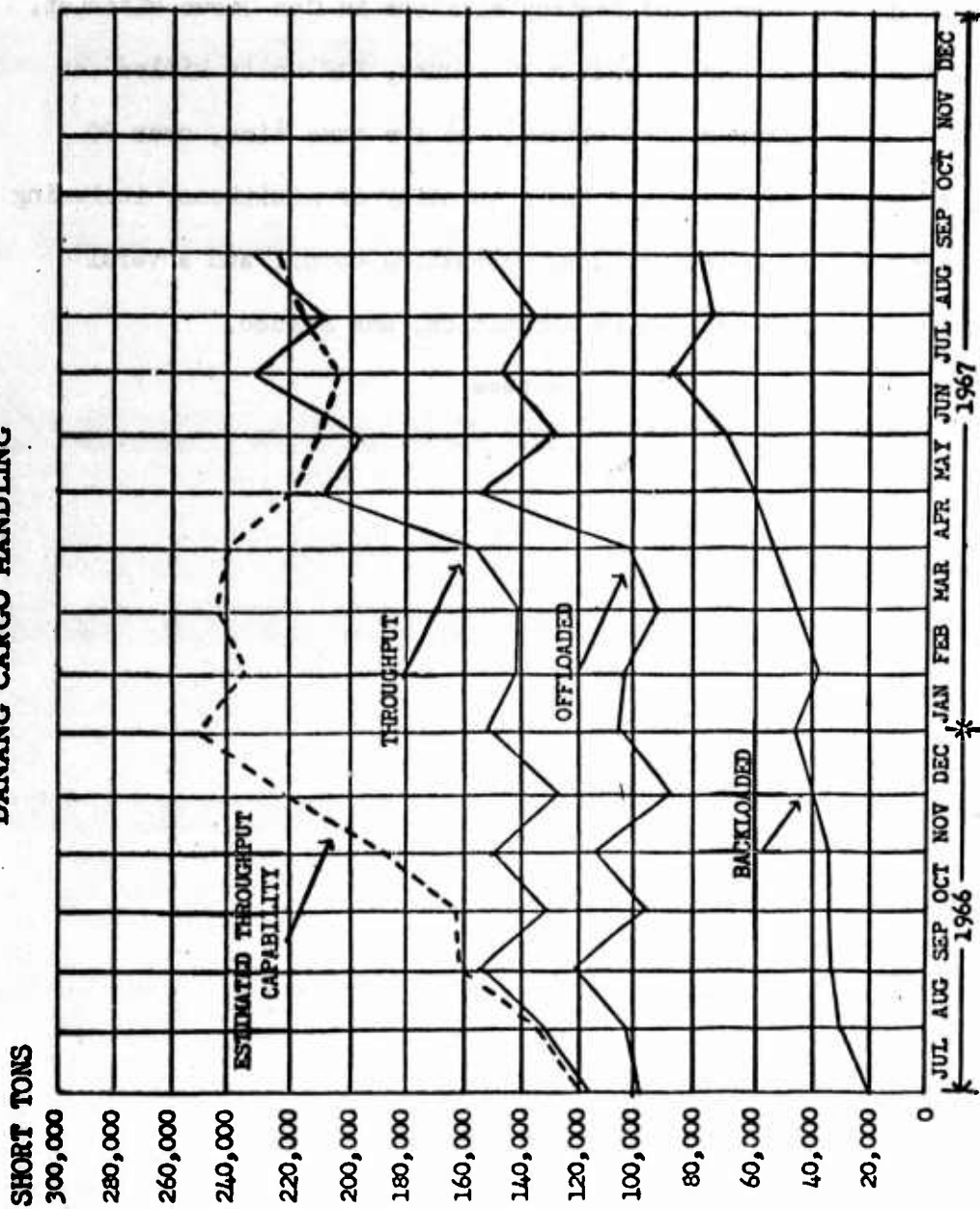
successfully re-fueled the boats waiting below.

From 23 August to the end of the month, the Mobile Riverine Force conducted search and destroy missions in Can Giouc district. During the two-day period ending 30 August, MRF units killed ten Viet Cong and captured five others. At the same time, over 90 enemy bunkers were destroyed and a quantity of munitions, including "claymore" mines, blasting caps, detonating cords, and several thousand rounds of small-arms ammunition, was seized.

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DANANG CARGO HANDLING





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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During August the enemy continued to mount numerous attacks against the craft and facilities of the Naval Support Activity, Danang and its outlying detachments.

On 6 August, in the fourth mining incident to occur in the Cua Viet waterway system since 15 May, NAVSUPACT's LCU-1537 was mined in the Thach An River while anchored 200 yards from the LCU-LCM ramp at Dong Ha. At 0320 two mines exploded simultaneously on the craft's starboard side and near the centerline forward. Forty minutes later a third mine was detonated on the craft's port side.

The LCU sustained extensive damage. The explosions tore six-by eight-foot holes in the craft's bow and starboard side, and a four-by ten-foot hole in the port side. Flooding was restricted to the area forward of the watertight bulkhead at frame 13, and the damaged LCU was subsequently towed to Danang for repairs.

Sporadic rocket and mortar attacks continued to harass the Dong Ha combat base area during the latter part of the month. Enemy fire was received on the 26th and again on the 27th. The next day a heavy rocket and mortar attack destroyed a number of fuel storage bladders, resulting in the loss of 100,000 gallons of aviation gasoline and JP-4 fuel. There were no casualties to Navy personnel.

The NAVSUPACT LST ramp site at the entrance to the Cua Viet

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also received sporadic artillery fire on the 28th and again on the 31st of August. Two NAVSUPPACT personnel were wounded as a result of these incidents.

At Hue, operations at the LCU ramp were restricted to daylight hours during August because of the increased enemy activity in the area. Shortly after midnight on the 27th, the ramp site was struck by two rounds of mortar fire. One Navyman was wounded during the brief attack.

On 11, 30 and 31 August, NAVSUPPACT harbor security forces conducted combined operations with Vietnamese Navy units and searched, during varying periods, all junks and sampans entering or leaving Danang Harbor. As a result of the operations, a total of 532 craft were searched and 14 craft and 43 personnel were detained.

During the month the volume of cargo processed by NAVSUPPACT Danang again surpassed previous levels. At the Port of Danang the month's throughput rose to 232,679 short tons. In addition, new highs were established for the amount of cargo handled at Hue and Dong Ha. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports also reached a new high--331,409 short tons.

The month's cargo operations at Danang were highlighted by the arrival, on 1 August, of SS BIENVILLE, whose entry into port marked the beginning of conventional containership service\* in South

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Vietnam. The ship's cargo of 228 containers, including 55 reefers, six flat beds and one open-top container, was off-loaded within 18 hours. The delivery of containers to ultimate consignees began thirty minutes after the first container was discharged from BIENVILLE.

Fifty-one ships arrived at Danang during August and 48 completed off-loading for a net decrease in backlog of 1,365 short tons. Over 153,000 short tons of cargo were discharged and almost 79,000 short tons were back-loaded for transshipment to other ports.

The month's combined net supply effectiveness figure for Danang and Chu Lai dropped slightly from July's 93 percent to 91 percent in August. Combined gross effectiveness remained stable at 84 percent.

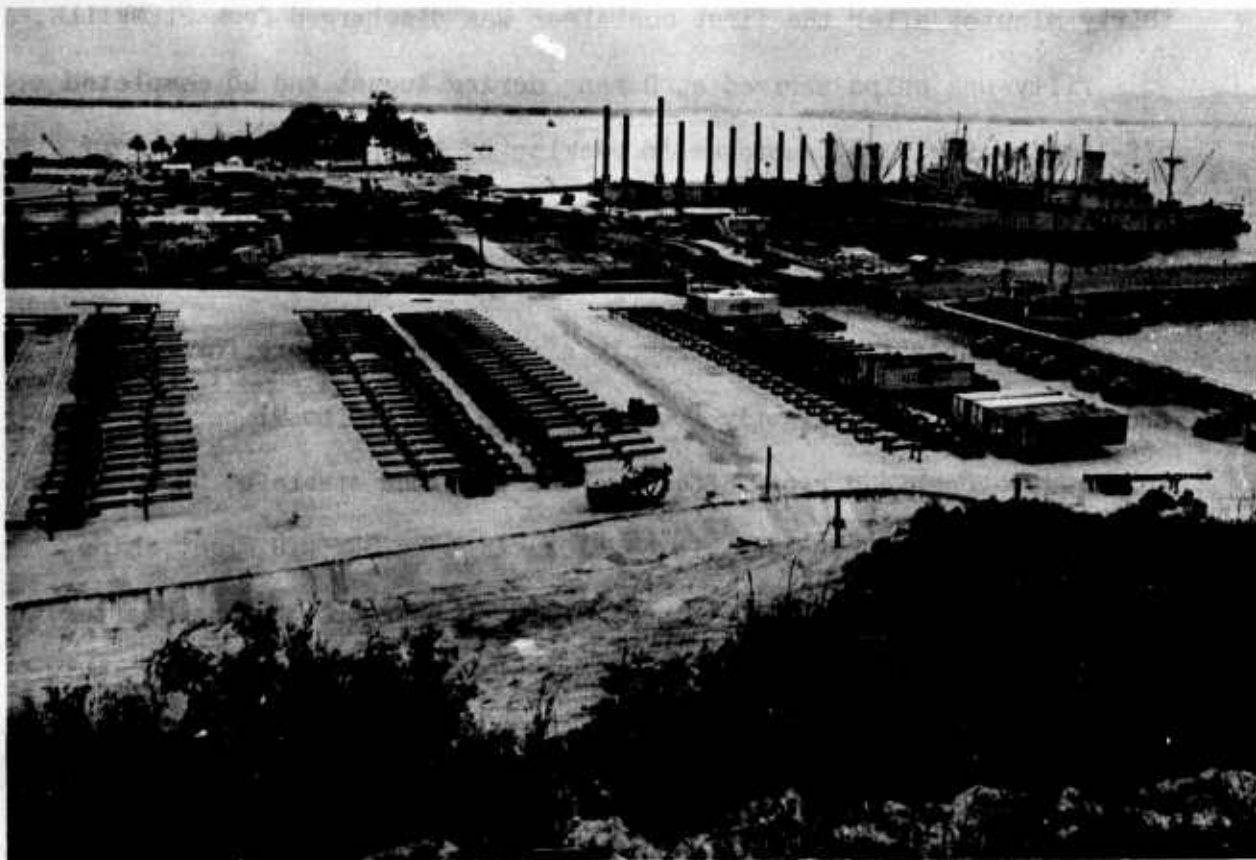
The Port of Danang was visited 108 times by SEVENTH Fleet ships during August. The ships were provided with over one and one-quarter million gallons of diesel fuel and over two million gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

Meanwhile, the Naval Support Activity's small craft repair facility completed the overhaul of 35 engines, 53 transmissions, and 622 injectors during August. The facility also changed a screw on an MSTS tank landing ship, and completed the overhaul of two

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\* A simple and economical delivery system involving the movement of cargo in large steel containers by ships specially configured for that purpose. The containers, ships and certain associated services are furnished by a civilian contractor.

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Danang's containership service facilities, adjacent to the port's deep-water piers.

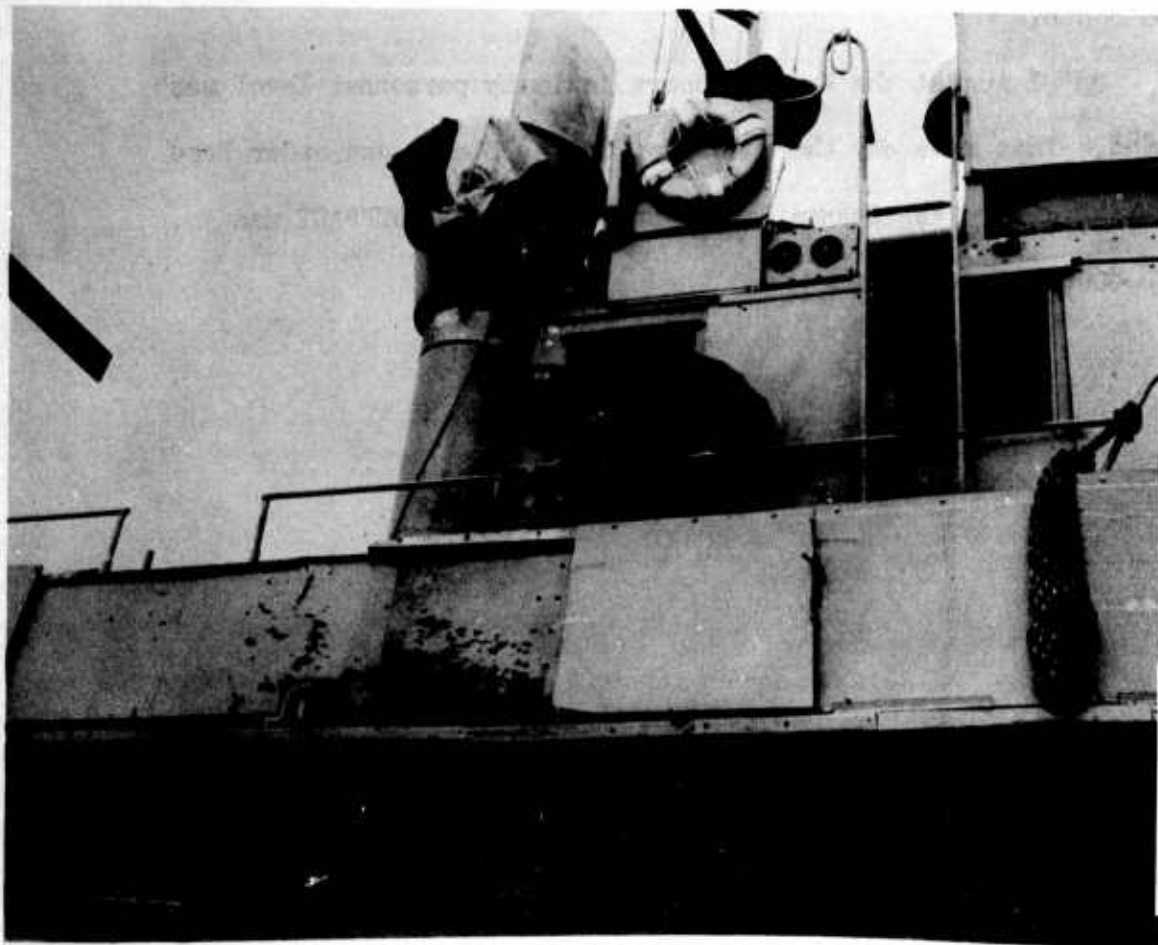
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LCM-6s, one LCM-6 "pusher" boat, and a patrol boat. In addition, a total of 21 craft, including LCU-1537, were dry-docked during the month.

On 31 August the Naval Support Activity personnel level was 8,588. That same day the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPACT was 131,800.

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Portside bridge area of MSB struck by enemy fire during 3 August mortar attack on Nha Be.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Between 0005 and 0025 on 3 August, the facilities of the Naval Support Activity's detachment at Nha Be came under an intense mortar and recoilless-rifle attack. The attack, involving approximately 40 rounds of fire, originated from Viet Cong positions across the Solrap and Long Tau Rivers, and was evidently aimed primarily at the PBR piers located along Nha Be's east waterfront.

Overall damage to the base and boats was generally light. The quick reaction of the boat crews in getting all boats underway and clear of the pier area minutes after the attack began helped avert what might have been a major success for the enemy. An MSB that was dry-docked for overhaul sustained a direct hit and a supply warehouse was damaged extensively. In addition, all of the buildings along the east waterfront received minor shrapnel damage. During the attack 24 U. S. Navy personnel were wounded slightly by shrapnel; all were returned to duty after receiving medical treatment.

A second mortar and recoilless-rifle attack, of short duration, took place early on the morning of 5 August. Again, overall damage was light as only two of the nine rounds fired by the Viet Cong fell within the perimeter of the base. No personnel injuries occurred during the second attack.

On 1 August the NAVSUPPACT detachment previously stationed at Can Tho was officially redesignated NAVSUPPACT Detachment, Binh Thuy.

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Throughout the month work continued on base defense projects at Binh Thuy. Among the construction projects that were completed in August were a series of watchtowers and personnel bunkers.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon's ships and craft hauled a total of 1,408 short tons of cargo to the various detachments during the month. At the same time, NAVSUPPACT aircraft transported 4,849 passengers and 201.5 short tons of cargo.

The number of line items carried by NAVSUPPACT increased by three percent in August to a total of 33,393. Meanwhile, overall gross and net material support effectiveness decreased slightly to 42 and 65 percent, respectively.

During the month NAVSUPPACT completed an extensive analysis of the status of PCF and PBR spare parts. Based on the information supplied by the study, Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet forwarded to the Defense Construction Supply Center (DCSC) in Columbus and the Ships Parts Control Center (SPCC) and U. S. Fleet Material Support Office in Mechanicsburg, a list identifying 772 critical parts, and supplementary data concerning usage, quantities on hand, quantities due, and requisition numbers. A card deck for each item was also forwarded in an effort to assist DCSC and SPCC in expediting the shipment of the needed parts.

In August the Selected Item Management (SIM) system was instituted at six of NAVSUPPACT's detachments. The system's monthly



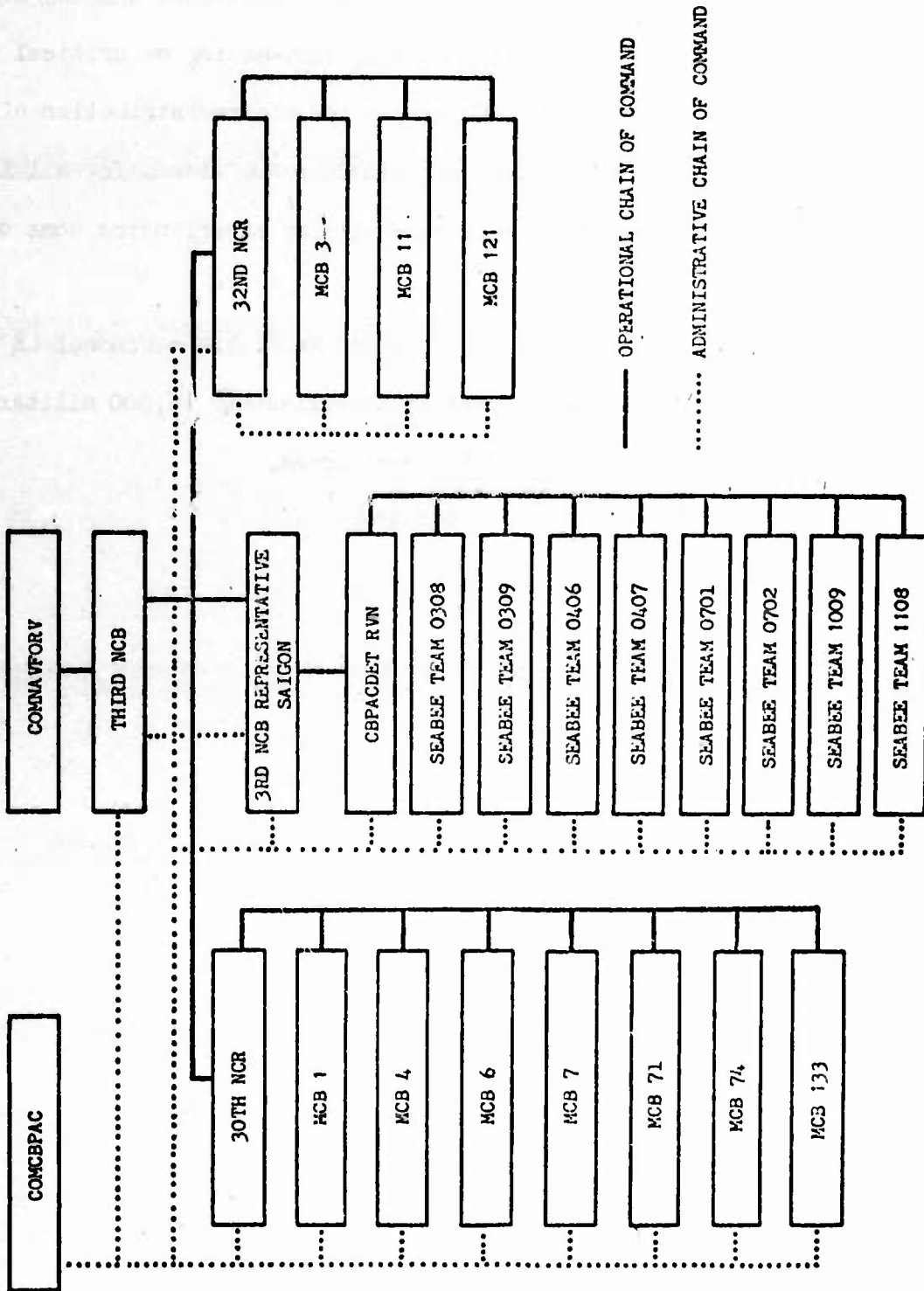
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report analysis was designed to help the detachments and the headquarters in Saigon to identify excess, fast-moving or critical items, provide readily-available information for the redistribution of items on hand, and facilitate the allocation of funds for all items. By month's end the detachments were already experiencing some of the system's benefits.

As of 31 August NAVSUPACT, Saigon had 1,114 personnel on board and was providing support to approximately 15,000 military personnel in the II, III and IV Corps areas.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE COMMAND STRUCTURE



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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Eight Seabees were killed during August and 45 were wounded as a result of extensive mortar, artillery and rocket attacks conducted by enemy units throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone.

On 13 August, in Danang East, 23 members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 (MCB 133) were wounded when two huts at the Camp Faulkner base sustained direct mortar hits. On the 19th a Seabee of MCB-11 was wounded by shrapnel during an attack at Lang Vei, 18 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. At Dong Ha four members of MCB-11 were killed and three were wounded when their base camp was struck by enemy artillery fire on 28 August. On the morning of 30 August an artillery round struck the berthing area of MCB-3 at the Gia Le base near Phu Bai, killing two Seabees and wounding 17 others. And in two separate incidents that occurred eight miles north of Danang, in the Hai Van Pass, two members of MCB-1 were killed by sniper fire and the detonation of a "claymore" mine.

The August attacks, coupled with an increase in Viet Cong-initiated acts of sabotage, inflicted diverse damage to bridges and culverts as well as construction equipment. Nevertheless, as a result of expeditious repairs carried out by various Seabee battalions and U. S. Marine units, the overall impact of the damage on logistical and tactical support capabilities was minimal.

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However, if the scope and intensity of the attacks were to continue to mount, the resulting increased workload could affect Seabee plans for completing certain improvements to I Corps' Route 1 prior to the start of the northeast monsoon season.

During the month MCB-11 upgraded 14 miles of Route 1 between Gio Linh and Song Bo. Meanwhile, a 58-man detachment from MCB-74 began work on a 17-mile roadway section connecting Phu Loc and Lang Co. MCB-6, based at Rosemary Point near Chu Lai, relieved MCB-8 during the first week in August and continued the work begun by MCB-8 to improve the 27-mile stretch of Route 1 running between Chu Lai and Quang Ngai.

Among the construction projects in progress during August were MCB-71's work on a Republic of Korea Army medical facility at Binh Son, and MCB-8's construction of a two-wing addition to the provincial hospital at Tam Ky. In Danang, MCB-7 completed two buildings earmarked as quarters for nurses attached to the station hospital.

On 8 August MCB-121 relieved MCB-62 at Phu Bai and continued a project to erect 35 Butler buildings; at month's end 32 of the structures had been completed. The newly-arrived battalion also improved 4.5 miles of roadway and continued the work on building "hootches" (huts), cantonments and a 500-man galley.

At Dong Ha MCB-11 constructed 23 helicopter pads for Marine Air

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Group 16 and built two Butler buildings and 50 strongbacks for use by units of the Third Marine Division. At the Cua Viet landing facility, members of the battalion completed 8,000 square yards of the planned staging area and continued the work on a concrete LCU ramp.

At Danang's Camp Haskins MCB-74 completed three of seven planned increments for Ammunition Supply Point Two. Similar supply points were under construction at each of the major combat bases; the barricaded storage areas were designed to provide better support and protection against losses due to sabotage or mortar and rocket attacks.

On 28 August, following an enemy rocket attack on the Marble Mountain air facility in the Danang area, members of Camp Adenir-based MCB-7 assisted in fighting fires and repairing damaged sections of the steel-matting runway. On 29 August, 15 miles southwest of Danang, the 2,040-foot Liberty Bridge (spanning the Thu Bon River) was opened to traffic. Constructed by MCB-4 and finished seven days ahead of schedule, the bridge served to complete the link connecting Danang with the developing complex at An Hoa.

On 1 August a second Naval Construction Regiment--NCR-32--was established, with headquarters at Phu Bai. Commanded by Commander Richard L. FOLEY, CEC, USN, until the arrival, on the 26th, of Captain James M. HILL, Jr., CEC, USN, NCR-32's area of responsibility

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Rear Admiral James V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN (right), accepts the command colors of the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade from Captain Albert R. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN, during change of command ceremonies held 31 August in Danang.

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extended to all Seabees operating north of the Hai Van Pass. The headquarters of NCR-30, meanwhile, remained at Camp Haskins, north of Danang, and the regiment's area of responsibility was revised to include Seabee units operating south of the Pass.

In another administrative move that occurred during the month, the headquarters of Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade was shifted from Saigon to Danang on 1 August. A representative remained in Saigon for liaison purposes.

On 31 August Rear Admiral James V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, relieved Captain Albert E. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN, as Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade in a ceremony held at the brigade's headquarters in Camp Haskins. During the ceremony Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, presented the Legion of Merit to Captain MARSCHALL for "...exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service..." At the same time, Captain MARSCHALL was relieved of his duties as Commander 30th Naval Construction Regiment by Captain Charles W. TURNER, CEC, USN.

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A water-taxi in the Delta prepares to come alongside a PBR for a routine inspection.



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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

The commander of My Tho-based River Division 53 recently received a letter of appreciation signed by members of a Water Taxi Association in Kien Hoa province. The letter was sent via the province chief of police and read as follows:

"We, all patrons, workers of motorized sampans and merchants traveling on the Ham Luong River every day, have the honor to convey to you our gratitude for PBR activities. The fact that we have been provided with security is due to PBR activities day and night. It was not too long ago that the Viet Cong set up their check points along the river to collect money from us and we were forced to support the so-called South Vietnam Liberation Front with rice and medicine, especially antibiotics, and sometimes with motors for sampans. Under the Viet Cong pressure we had to obey them and were forced to help them. We had to increase the price of goods to cover the losses and we endured their illegal taxes.

Since the day that there have been PBR activities on the Ham Luong River, the Viet Cong's heartless actions have been put to an end and we have had peace of mind in our daily work. We are no longer threatened by their pressure and their retaliation (for example, the owner of HUNG-PHAT Motorized Sampans was captured and liquidated... (and)...a number of citizens were forced to witness the execution). Especially now the Viet Cong cannot collect taxes from us.

We feel no resentment when we are searched by PBR forces because we realize that their actions and their purposes are to cut off Viet Cong supplies and to annihilate them. We are very satisfied with PBR forces and pledge to stand by them. We will point out Viet Cong (economic and financial cadres) and camouflaged liaison Viet Cong cadres living among villagers. We will especially provide information on Viet Cong concentration anywhere along the river side.

We have high respect for Vietnamese policemen and PBR

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sailors because they have good manners and are very polite when they search our taxis and they do not take bribes.

We wish the above activities to be continued and increased to protect us villagers, honest people living in lovely coconut tree areas of the South, from Viet Cong sabotage. We would like to convey our warm wishes and gratitude to policemen working on PBRs and...(to the)... PBR sailors..."

On 27 August, in the My Tho area, the commander of River Assault Group 21 received a note--signed, "a citizen"--informing him that the Viet Cong were attempting to mine the entrance to the Cho Gao Canal. The report proved reliable and the mining attempt was disrupted. On a number of occasions throughout the month, Viet Cong defectors (Hoi Chanhs) seeking amnesty under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program provided Fourth Riverine Area units with dependable intelligence data. As a result, Delta-based River Assault Groups conducted several successful operations in which three Viet Cong were killed and seven were captured. In addition, the missions resulted in the destruction of numerous enemy structures and the seizure of enemy weapons, ammunition, medicines, documents, a prison camp and a hospital.

In the First Coastal Zone, naval units conducted over 100 hours of loudspeaker broadcasts during August; more than one-half of this total was carried out on board craft of the Vietnamese Navy. At least one Hoi Chanh rallied at Hue as a direct result of the taped Chieu Hoi appeals beamed by members of Coastal Group 12. The rallier subsequently gave interrogators the coordinates of a Viet Cong

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battalion command post, and the information led to a successful air strike.

In Danang the local Polytechnical School--which has been receiving assistance from members of the Naval Support Activity's Civic Action Team on a continuing basis--graduated 143 Vietnamese students in August. The school's vocational courses range from carpentry and electricity to sewing and tailoring, and the instruction is conducted by Vietnamese faculty members with voluntary assistance from naval personnel. At the graduation ceremony the school's director publicly thanked the Navymen for their long hours and hard work in teaching and advising the various classes.

During the month the soldiers and sailors of the Mobile Riverine Force presented 118,000 piasters to the widows of the Vietnamese Marines who were killed while participating in Operation CORONADO II. The casualties occurred on 29-30 July, in Dinh Tuong province, when the Marines' 3rd Battalion steadfastly refused to break contact with an enemy force in favor of air and artillery strikes. The Marines' professionalism and gallantry proved to be a major factor in the very substantial success achieved during the operation.

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during August by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

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1. Construction:
  - a. Bridges 2/2R
  - b. Churches/temples/pagodas 2R
  - c. Dispensaries 1
  - d. Dwellings/number of families 65, 1R/80
  - e. Hospitals 1R
  - f. Levelings-grading projects 3
  - g. Libraries 1R
  - h. Playgrounds 2
  - i. Roads 1
  - j. Schools/classrooms 3/11
  - k. Toilets, public 2
  - l. Wells 9
  - m. Water pumps 5
  - n. Barbed-wire fencing (feet) 600
  - o. School desks (number) 30
  - p. Warehouses 1
2. Medical treatment:
  - a. General 40,976
  - b. Dental 3,410
  - c. Surgery 190
  - d. Emergency evacuations 65
  - e. Blood tests 40
3. Health and sanitation:
  - a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance 38/3,290
  - b. Medical aides or nurses trained 5
  - c. Spray insecticide operations 42
  - d. Swamp areas drained 1
  - e. MEDCAPs 153
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):
  - a. Cement 88,900
  - b. Clothing 32,200
  - c. Food 285,600
  - d. Lumber (board feet) 376,100
  - e. Medical, non-prescription (cases) 14
  - f. School kits (number) 1,245
  - g. Soap 7,867
  - h. Tin sheets (number) 3,440
  - i. Woodworker kits (number) 2
  - j. Midwife kits (number) 72
  - k. Paint (gallons) 40
  - l. Sand (cubic yards) 40

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m.	Sewing machines (number)	1
n.	C-rations (cases)	15
o.	Paper blankets (number)	1,500
p.	Plastic envelopes (number)	500
q.	Toys (number)	250
r.	Textile kits (number)	100
5.	Educational efforts:	
a.	English classes/attendance	80/2,360
b.	Text books (number donated)	1,400
6.	Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:	
a.	Hospitals	50,000
b.	Orphanages	8,850
c.	Religious activities	47,200
d.	Schools	11,200
e.	Scholarships	11,500
f.	Surgical needs	15,000
g.	Widows	118,000

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The new communications station at Cam Ranh Bay.

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### COMMUNICATIONS

On 1 August the Naval Communications Station at Cam Ranh Bay was formally commissioned by Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. Under construction since August 1966, the station's complex includes a communications center, receiver and transmitter sites, and message centers at the nearby headquarters of the Coastal Surveillance Force (TF 115) and the Naval Air Facility.

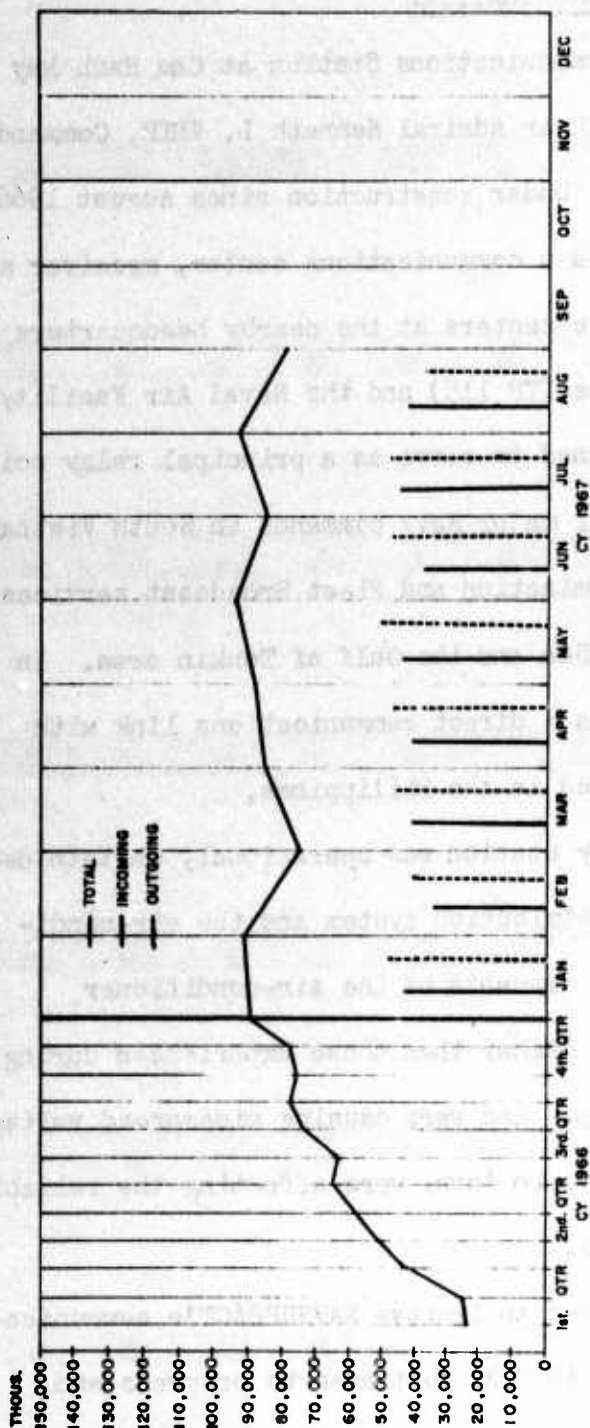
The new station is designed to serve as a principal relay point for the message traffic of all major Navy commands in South Vietnam, and provide multi-channel termination and Fleet Broadcast services for ships in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Tonkin area. In addition, the station also has a direct communications link with the master area station located in the Philippines.

Although the Cam Ranh Bay station was operational, certain defects existed in the power distribution system and the air-conditioning system. The starting currents of the air-conditioner compressors were considerably higher than those experienced during the factory tests of the system, and were causing widespread voltage fluctuations; the power surges, in turn, were affecting the reliability of the station's transmissions.

At Danang the work designed to improve NAVSUPACT's communications capability (Project SEA ANCHOR) continued to progress and, by month's end, the project was approximately 97 percent complete.

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# MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



## PERCENT OF TOTAL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	9				
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1	17.9				
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9	61.6				
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5	19.6				



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Utilization of the new equipment was scheduled to commence in early September. In Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of communications vans transportable by helicopters), three HF vans and six microwave vans arrived in Danang during the month. The UHF and VHF vans were now expected to arrive in October.

Meanwhile, construction and installation work continued on Project SEARCHLIGHT at COMNAVFORV's headquarters in Saigon. The construction phase has been somewhat behind schedule because of delays in obtaining certain electrical material. By month's end most of the needed material had arrived. In the Delta, the transfer of circuits from the Air Transportable Communications Unit (ATCU 100A) at Can Tho to the SEARCHLIGHT site at Binh Thuy commenced on 26 August. Progress at the other SEARCHLIGHT sites continued to lag because of delays in the arrival of equipment and construction materials.

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center during August was 78,640, a decrease of 14,123 under July's figure. The decrease was due primarily to the relocation of CTF 115 from Saigon to Cam Ranh Bay during July and the subsequent transfer of associated communications circuits to the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 6 August the Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps, General Wallace M. GREENE, USMC, visited the headquarters of Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. Following a series of briefings in Saigon, General GREENE visited the flagship of the Mobile Riverine Force, USS BENEWAH (APL 35), the IV Corps headquarters site in Can Tho, and the headquarters of Commander River Patrol Force at Binh Thuy. General GREENE also conferred with Lieutenant General Le Nguyen KHANG, VNMC, Commandant of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, before departing for Danang and a tour of U. S. Marine installations in the I Corps area.

During the latter part of the month, General of the Army Omar N. BRADLEY visited various activities throughout South Vietnam, including the Mobile Riverine Force and River Patrol Force facilities in the Delta and, on the 29th, COMNAVFORV's headquarters in Saigon.

PCF Hull Corrosion

In recent months, interior hull corrosion has begun to develop among some of the Swift boats assigned to Operation MARKET TIME. The deterioration has been particularly noticeable in bilge areas and other recessed sections susceptible to salt-spray accumulations. Despite the increased efforts of boat crews to detect and combat the corrosion during its early stages by means of wire brushing, scraping and painting, the hull-plating of certain PCFs has been reduced by

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as much as one-half of the original thickness.

The problem has been the subject of close study and increasing concern since May. At the same time, as the in-country PCF overhaul program has become progressively overtaxed, it has become evident that out-of-country overhauls would be necessary to perform the extensive PCF hull work required. During August, in a detailed message to Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet, COMNAVFORV summarized the problem's status and recommended that preliminary arrangements for an out-of-country overhaul program be initiated. At month's end a planning conference was earmarked for early September in Cam Ranh Bay to establish the schedule for such a program.

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SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
NOT RELEASABLE TO  
FOREIGN NATIONALS

NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

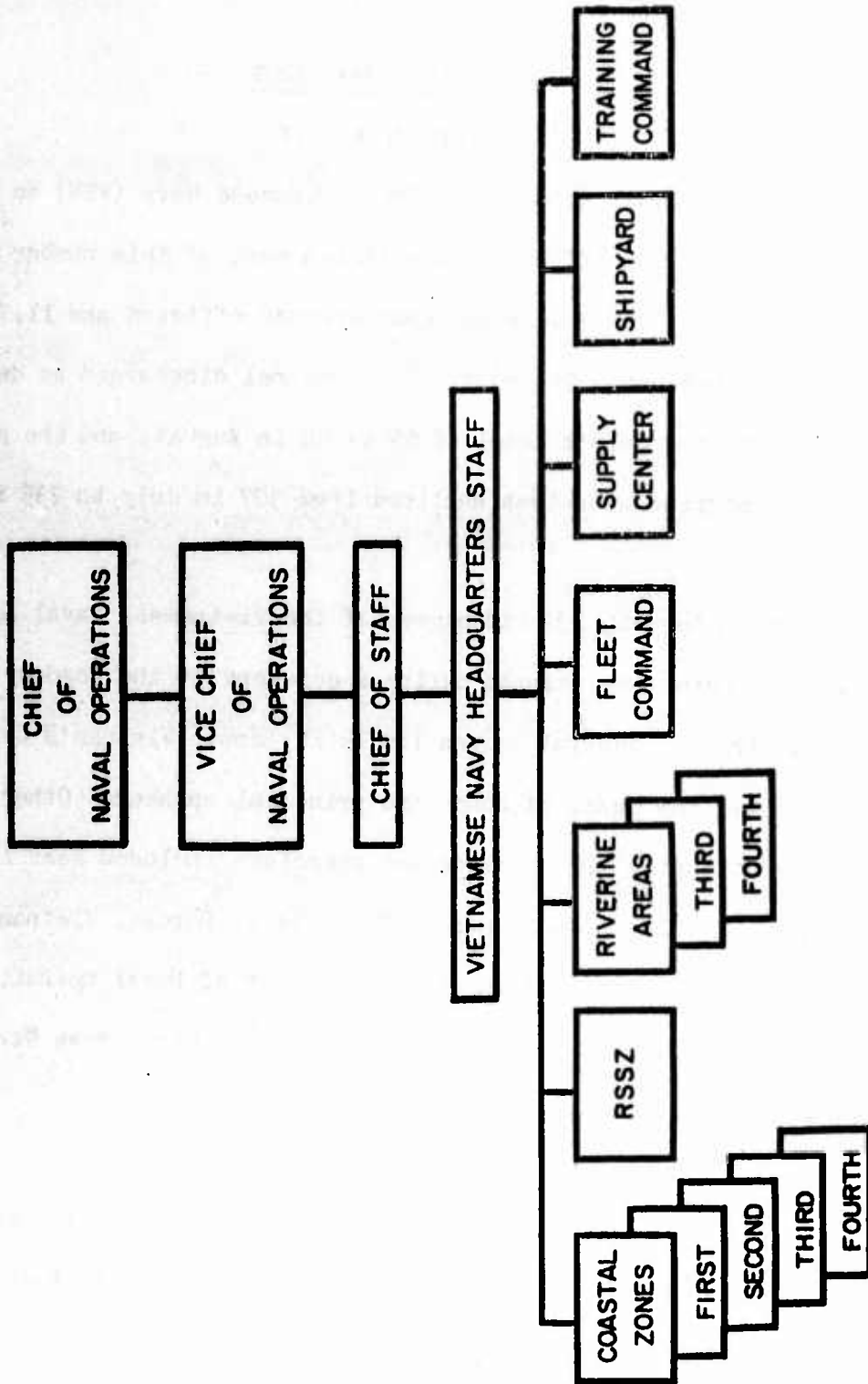
The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 31 August was 15,985 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,227 were officers, 2,992 were non-commissioned officers and 11,766 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased from July's total of 69 to 50 in August, and the number of unauthorized absentees declined from 307 in July to 235 in August.

On 10 August, 132 midshipmen of the Vietnamese Naval Academy's Class 16 were commissioned during a ceremony at the Academy's site in Nha Trang. General Nguyen Van THIEU, South Vietnam's Chief of State, was the guest of honor and principal speaker. Other dignitaries attending the commencement exercises included Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, Captain Tran Van CHON, the Vietnamese Navy's Chief of Naval Operations, and Captain Allan P. SLAFF, USN, Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters.

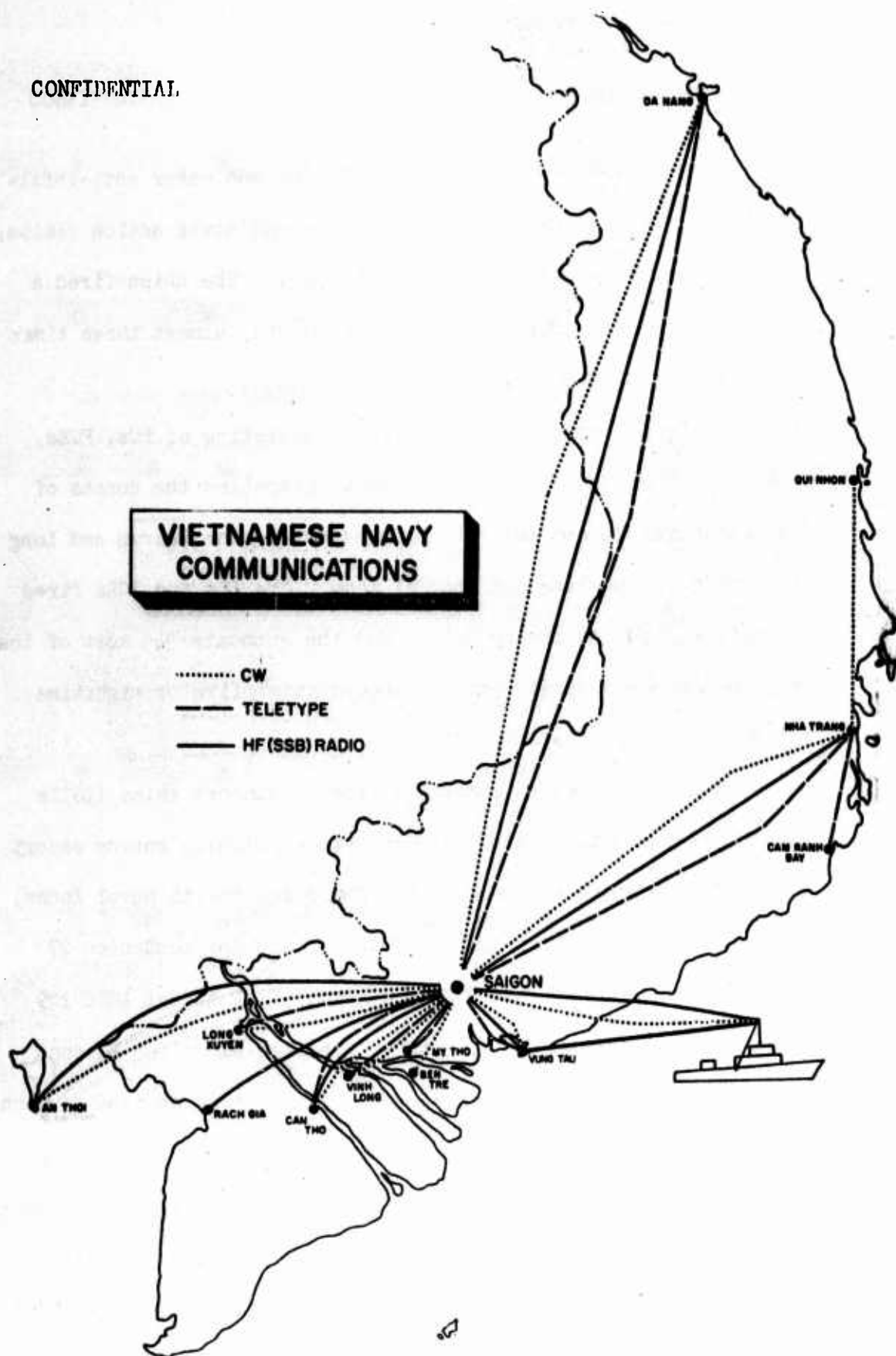
Fleet Command

In August the Fleet Command had 23 ships available daily and maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrols and one ship on convoy escort duty.

VIETNAMESE NAVY COMMAND STRUCTURE



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The month's operations included MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration activities, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. The ships fired a total of 81 gunfire missions during the month, almost three times the number conducted in July.

The Fleet Command's patrol craft, consisting of PCs, PCEs, gunboats (PGMs) and minesweepers (MSCs) patrolled the coasts of the four naval zones; the PGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long Tau Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The PCs and PCEs fired 20 gunfire missions during August and the gunboats 34; most of the missions involved harassment-and-interdiction fire or nighttime support of Vietnamese outposts.

Meanwhile the Fleet Command's landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided coastal patrols, river patrols, convoy escort and gunfire support services in the Third and Fourth Naval Zones, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. The ships conducted 27 gunfire missions in August. On the night of 22 August LSSL 229 came to the assistance of an outpost situated along the Mekong River, 13 miles upstream from Sa Dec. The outpost commander, upon learning that a Viet Cong company was marshalling for an attempt to overrun the base, requested help and subsequently provided continuous spotting corrections for the LSSL's gunfire. The fire successfully suppressed the imminent attack and killed or wounded



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approximately one-third of the enemy force.

On 20 August, 10 miles east of Saigon, an MLMS conducting a routine mine-sweeping patrol along the Dong Nai River uncovered 20 cases of U. S.-manufactured 81-mm. mortar ammunition in a Viet Cong cache on the river bank. The minesweeper subsequently delivered the ammunition to River Assault Group 27's base at Cat Lai for further transfer to U. S. Army authorities.

Throughout the month a detachment of the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) continued to conduct nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon. Two other detachments operated with U. S. Navy SEAL units based at Nha Be and Binh Thuy. On the morning of 7 August a combined LDNN-SEAL ambush team, of the Nha Be contingent, attacked two Viet Cong sampans in the western portion of the RSSZ, 19 miles south of Saigon. One of the sampans was sunk and its five occupants were killed; the second sampan evaded successfully.

#### Coastal Force

In August the Coastal Force searched 27,805 junks and sampans and 105,077 persons, detaining 28 junks and 376 suspects. On a daily average, 74 percent of the Force's 184 available junks was on patrol.

From 1 to 4 August, Coastal Group 14 junks supported units of the U. S. FIRST Marine Division conducting Operation PIKE along the

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south bank of the Thu Bon River, 17 miles south of Danang. The amphibious sweeps resulted in the death of 99 Viet Cong, the capture of 54 others and the detention of 27 suspects. Eight Marines were killed during the missions and 60 were wounded; there were no Vietnamese Navy casualties. From 7 to 10 August, in the Cua Dai River, Coastal Group units provided exfiltration patrols for Marines conducting Operation BEACON GATE.

On 11 August, in response to an intelligence report that about 120 Viet Cong were planning to attack the Coastal Group 13 base (25 miles northwest of Danang), the base commander, Lieutenant Junior Grade Nguyen BAN, VNN, activated a base defense plan which included: sending all dependents to a nearby village by nightfall; positioning a 30-man ambush party along likely Viet Cong escape routes; embarking all but seven personnel in junks to provide mobile base-support; assigning the remaining seven men to normal nighttime patrols, generator watches and "claymore" mine detonation positions. In effect, the plan was designed to accept Viet Cong infiltration in return for maximum enemy casualties. The attack never materialized. One week later, on the night of the 18th, the crews of two junks in base defense moorings killed one Viet Cong underwater swimmer and recovered over 80 pounds of explosives from the body of a second swimmer. The swimmers' equipment included rudimentary straight-tube snorkels and sheath knives.

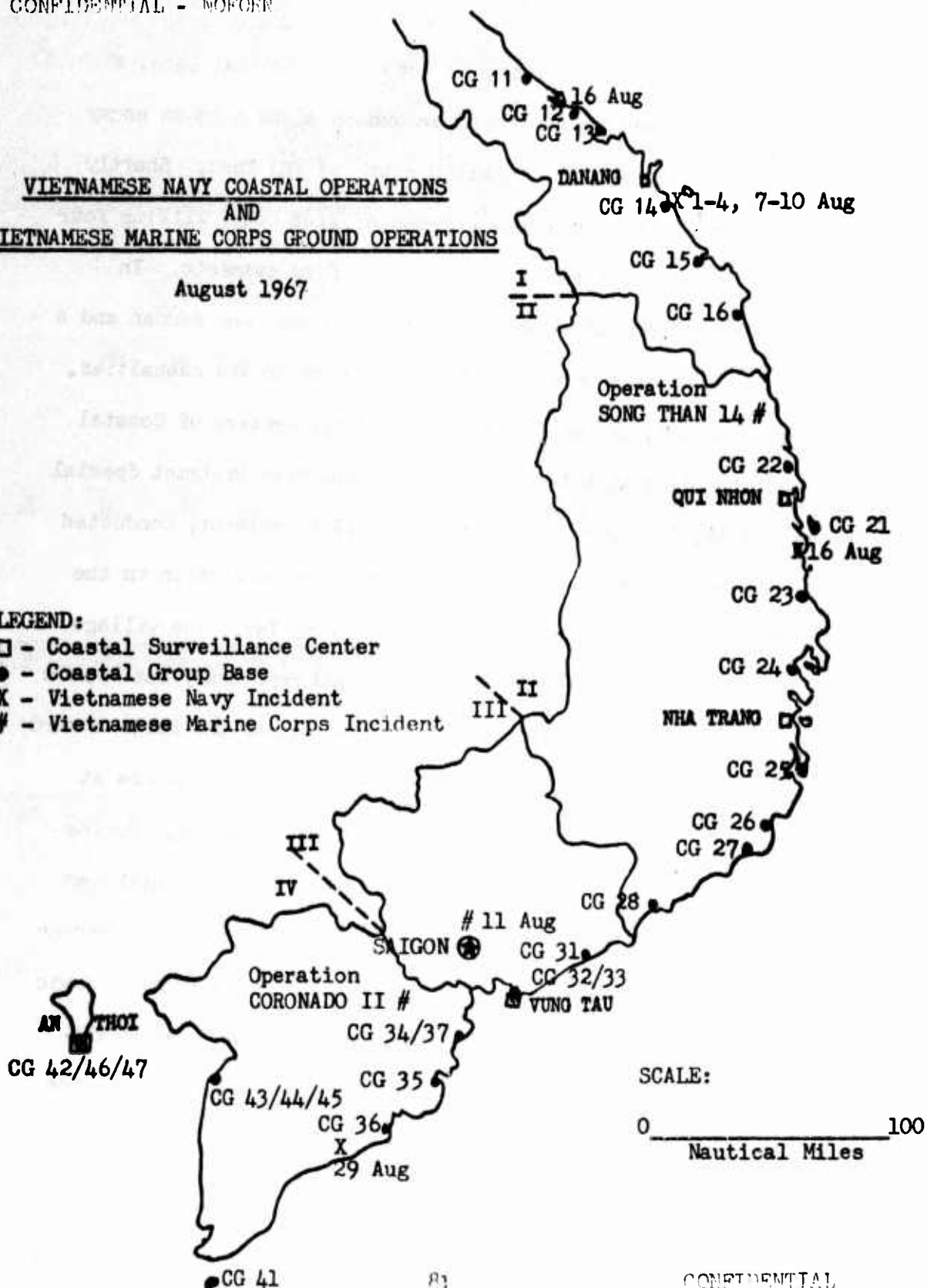
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VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS  
AND  
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

August 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- - Coastal Group Base
- X - Vietnamese Navy Incident
- # - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident



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On the morning of the 16th, in the Second Coastal Zone, a Coastal Group 23 contingent staged an ambush along a known enemy crossing route in Ghao Bay, 20 miles south of Qui Nhon. Shortly after noon the team intercepted a group of Viet Cong, killing four and capturing one, and detaining five Viet Cong suspects. In addition, three individual weapons, two grenades, one sampan and a quantity of documents were seized. There were no VNN casualties.

On 13 August, in the Third Coastal Zone, members of Coastal Group 33, together with two companies of Hoa Binh District Special Forces and the 4th Battalion of the ARVN 12th Regiment, conducted a coordinated search and destroy and civic action mission in the village of Xom Cua Tien, 20 miles west of Vung Tau. The village lies near the mouth of the My Tho River, and reportedly has been a major liaison point for Viet Cong units transiting the Delta toward Go Cong Province. The Government ground forces swept ashore at 0200 and soon made contact with two Viet Cong companies. During the ensuing engagement three Viet Cong were killed, a fourth was captured and a quantity of weapons was seized. One Special Forces soldier was killed and three others were wounded. A medical civic action team was landed at 0900 and proceeded to treat needy villagers while simultaneously distributing literature espousing the Government's cause.

On the 23rd, a Coastal Group 35 ambush team detained three

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Viet Cong suspects as they were attempting to infiltrate a village adjacent to the Coastal Group base, 47 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Nine additional suspects were detained the following evening as a result of information provided by the first three; subsequent interrogation revealed that all 12 were Viet Cong and that they had been sent to the village in an effort to persuade residents to boycott the September National elections.

#### The Attack on Coastal Group 16's Base

On the morning of 7 August, in the darkness of the pre-dawn hours, an enemy force of one to two battalions assaulted the Coastal Group 16 base, 70 miles southeast of Danang.

The base, which lies adjacent to the village of Co Luy near the mouth of the Tra Khuc River, was initially struck by an intensive mortar barrage that began just before 0300. The Coastal Group's U. S. advisors--Lieutenant William C. FITZGERALD, USN, Lieutenant Junior Grade Anthony C. WILLIAMS, USNR, Chief Engineman Harold H. GUINN, USN, and Boatswain's Mate First Class Leo E. PEARMAN, USN--immediately radioed for help and provided direct assistance as base personnel tried to check the enemy's movements amid a heavy exchange of small-arms fire.

A U. S. Navy craft on patrol nearby--PCF 20--intercepted the distress call, relayed the message to other MARKET TIME units in the area and headed toward the base, arriving about 0315. Upon

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arrival, at Lieutenant FITZGERALD's request, the Swift boat began firing on enemy mortar and automatic-weapons sites emplaced on the other side of the river, directly across from the beleaguered base.

By 0330 the overwhelming enemy force had penetrated the base's northern mine field defenses and numerous Vietnamese Navy personnel were already dead, including the Coastal Group commander, Lieutenant Junior Grade Nguyen N. THONG, VNN. Then, as an advance contingent (approximately 300 in number) of the invaders broke through and began overrunning the central sections of the base, Lieutenant FITZGERALD and his assistants moved to their bunker and continued to fire on the enemy troops.

At 0340 PCF 75 reached the scene to lend additional fire support and, five minutes later, the Vietnamese Navy's PCE 10 arrived and began firing on the Viet Cong positions with spotting assistance from Coastal Group personnel embarked in junks along the river. By 0345, however, the base was in virtual enemy possession and communications with the base had deteriorated. At this time, realizing that the advisors' bunker was probably the sole remaining source of resistance within the base complex, Lieutenant FITZGERALD requested an artillery strike on his position and ordered his men to escape to the river. As the men left the bunker Lieutenant FITZGERALD remained behind, providing covering fire for their movements. When Lieutenant FITZGERALD reached the bunker's exit, he



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was fatally struck in the back of the head by a round of small-arms fire.

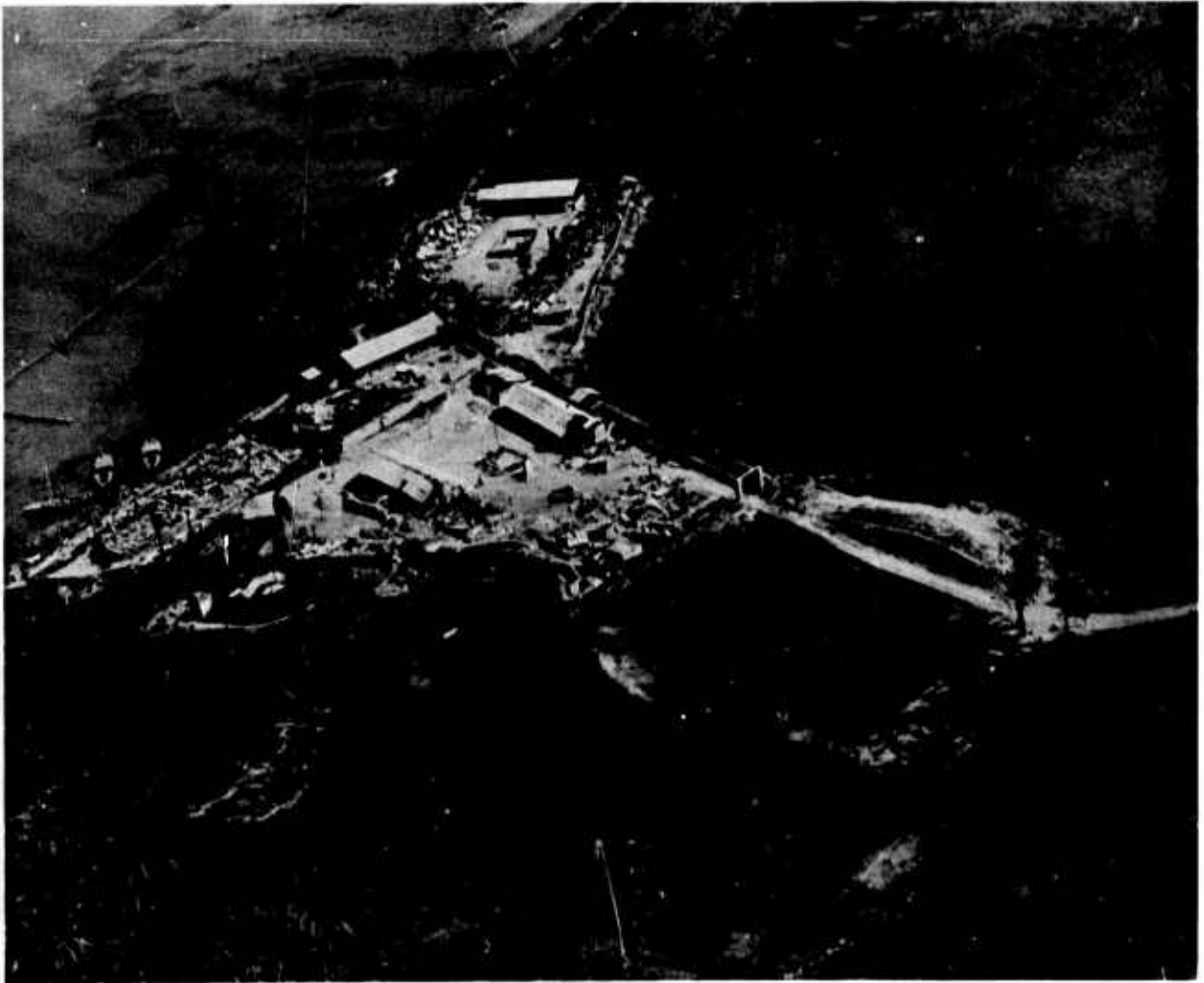
The remaining advisors subsequently reached the river successfully but not before LTJG WILLIAMS was hit in the face and chest by shrapnel; about an hour later he was picked up by a fisherman, transferred to a Swift boat and eventually evacuated to the U. S. Army hospital at Qui Nhon. Meanwhile, the other two advisors were rescued by a Coastal Group junk and, after treatment for minor wounds, returned to the base and made their way back to the bunker where, about 0430, they found the body of LT FITZGERALD.

By this time a number of other units were in the area, including USS CAMP (DER 251), PCFs 15 and 54, and a U. S. Air Force C-47 "Dragon Ship." With CAMP acting as on-scene commander, the units provided counter-fire support, exfiltration patrols and evacuation assistance. The Swift boats evacuated approximately 40 Vietnamese to CAMP, fifteen of whom were subsequently flown by helicopter to the Vietnamese hospital at Quang Ngai.

At 0700 two infantry companies of the ARVN SECOND Division and a company of U. S. troops from Task Force OREGON reached the battered Coastal Group base and launched a counterattack against the Viet Cong units, forcing the enemy to retreat. By 0730 the Allied contingent had regained control of the base.

Besides the Coastal Group commander, 13 Vietnamese sailors

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The Coastal Group 16 base following the Viet Cong attack of 7 August.



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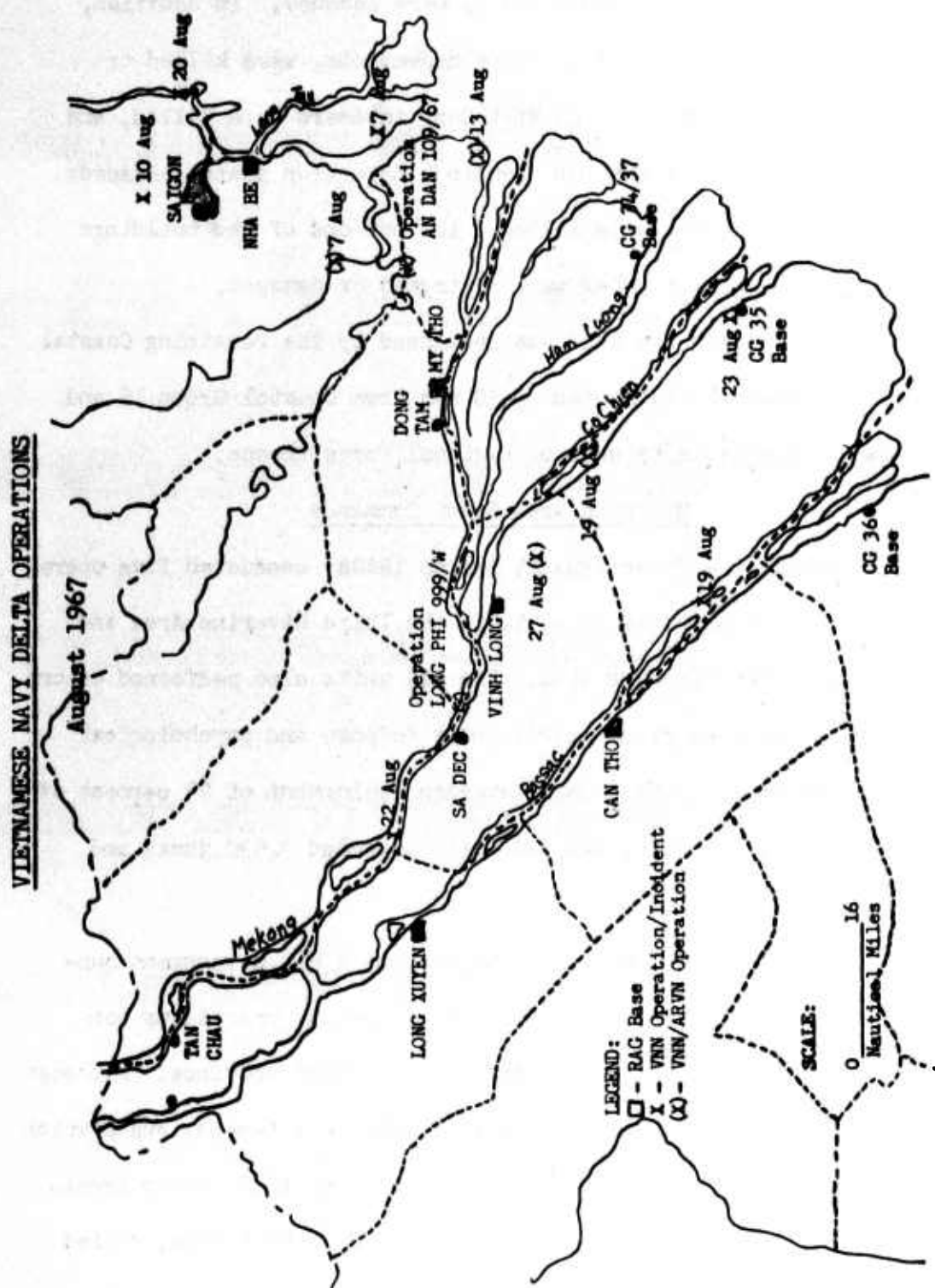
were killed during the attack and 35 were wounded. In addition, 20 civilians, most of them military dependents, were killed or wounded. At the same time 11 Viet Cong invaders were killed, and 35 Viet Cong suspects who had been in a detention status escaped; three other detainees were killed. All but one of the buildings comprising the base complex were destroyed or damaged.

By mid-morning the base was re-manned by the remaining Coastal Group 16 personnel, augmented by 30 men from Coastal Group 15 and a company-size security unit of Regional Force troops.

#### Riverine Area Naval Commands

In August the River Assault Groups (RAGs) conducted five operations in the First Naval Zone, 10 in the Third Riverine Area and 19 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAG units also performed escort duty, and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 77 percent of the 166 available craft, the RAG units searched 3,530 junks and 9,940 persons.

During the month, the First Naval Zone's RAG detachment supported various ARVN units in a series of one-day operations conducted along inland waterway areas in Thua Thien province. Although contact with the enemy was generally light, in a two-day sweep which started on the 16th, 12 miles northwest of Hue, ARVN sector forces landed from boats of the detachment captured 17 Viet Cong, killed



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10 others, and seized a quantity of weapons and documents.

Throughout the month in the Rung Sat Special Zone, a daily average of 11 craft from RAG 22 and six craft from Regional Force boat companies supported ambush operations conducted by Regional Force and Popular Force elements. In addition, between the 12th and the 31st, the craft supported the VNN's 3rd Battalion and conducted regular patrols along the Long Tau River and its tributaries.

On 3 August the RAG 22 base adjacent to Nha Be's U. S. Navy facility came under fire during a mortar and recoilless-rifle attack directed primarily at the U. S. base. Although damage to the VNN facility was light, 10 military personnel and five dependents were wounded, five seriously.

In an amphibious assault conducted on 7 August, Long An sector troops, supported by RAG 27 units, landed along the Vam Co Dong River, 14 miles southwest of Saigon. The operation resulted in the capture of two Viet Cong, the detention of four Viet Cong suspects, and the seizure of a quantity of enemy equipment and documents. One ARVN soldier wounded during the operation died later from the wounds.

On the morning of the 10th, seven miles north of Saigon, nine RAG 30 craft on patrol in the Saigon River encountered a Viet Cong troop movement. The RAG commander ordered his craft to beach and

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put a landing party ashore; the quick reaction surprised the enemy completely and enabled the sailors to capture eight Viet Cong, including a battalion commander, and seize numerous weapons and documents. In addition, six Viet Cong were killed and several others drowned during their attempts to escape. There were no VNN casualties.

On 18 August, RAG 24 supported four Regional Force companies conducting Operation AN DAN 109/67 in the region between the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong rivers, 20 miles southwest of Saigon. The RAG units landed the troops on the southeastern flank of the objective area, then assumed blocking stations along the Vam Co Tay River. Sweeping in a westerly direction, the ground units intercepted a Viet Cong medical unit and captured seven Viet Cong, killed three others, and seized a large quantity of medicine, medical equipment and documents. Meanwhile, the blocking units intercepted 10 fleeing junks and detained five Viet Cong suspects. During the operation one Regional Force soldier was killed and another wounded by a booby trap.

On 19 August, 13 miles downstream from Can Tho, two RAG 25 and RAG 29 boats on patrol in the Bassac River conducted a gunfire mission against enemy craft in a Viet Cong-controlled area. As a result of the gunfire, three 40-foot junks were destroyed and two others were heavily damaged; three enemy fortifications along the river bank were also taken under fire and severely damaged.

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conducted a series of sweeps along the river banks. Employing leapfrogging tactics the ARVN troops located and destroyed a number of enemy fortifications, killed 15 Viet Cong, detained 17 suspects and seized a quantity of weapons.

At 1100 on 29 August, 40 miles south of Can Tho, seven RAG craft transiting a canal en route to Bac Lien were ambushed by an enemy unit. The RAG boats were proceeding in column at the time, and the ambush began with the detonation of a water mine just ahead of the formation's leading craft. Responding quickly, some of the RAG units struck the ambush site with mortars, grenades and small-arms fire while other units beached and dispatched landing parties. The rapid reaction disrupted the enemy attack and forced the Viet Cong to flee. One of the enemy was captured as well as a sampan and a number of grenades and documents. There were no VNN casualties during the engagement and none of the RAG craft sustained any serious damage.

#### Logistics

In August the Vietnamese Navy conducted 31 logistical support missions, transporting 3,677 tons of cargo and 2,891 personnel. The tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,140 tons of cargo and 853 personnel; medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,318 tons of cargo and 805 personnel; and utility landing ships (LCUs) lifted 1,219 tons of cargo and 1,233 personnel.

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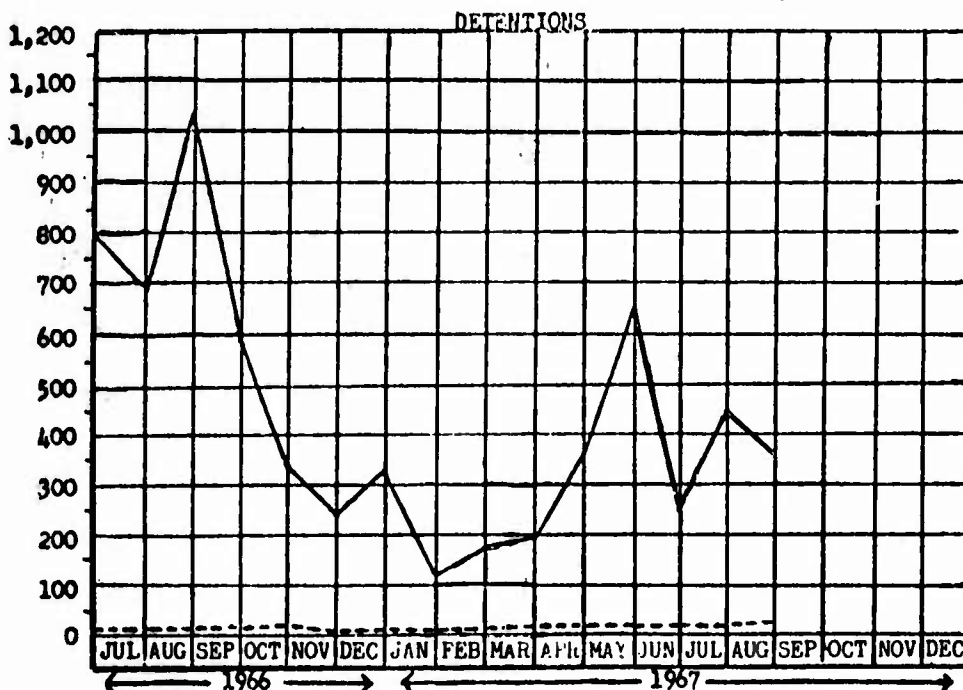
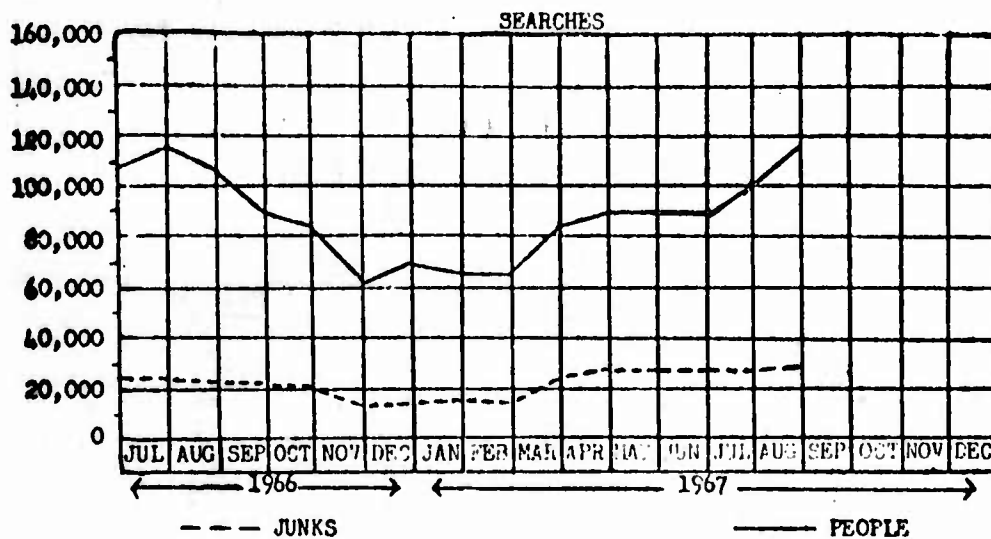
Throughout the month similar patrols and random gunfire missions were conducted on a regular basis as part of the continuing harassment of Viet Cong positions located along the central Bassac.

That same day, 22 miles downstream from Vinh Long, 12 craft from RAGs 23 and 31 supported an ARVN NINTH Division search and destroy operation. After landing the troop elements the RAG craft conducted blocking missions along several canals leading south from the Co Chien River. The ARVN forces killed 22 Viet Cong during the operation, captured 10 others, detained 16 Viet Cong suspects, and seized a number of weapons and four tons of assorted ammunition. Eight soldiers were wounded by the enemy's return fire. There were no VNN casualties.

On the 22nd, in a similar mission code-named Operation LONG PHI 999/W, 14 RAG units landed ARVN troops in a major rice-producing area five miles southeast of Sa Dec. The troops encountered heavy Viet Cong resistance during the operation and, by late afternoon, 23 ARVN soldiers had been killed and 36 wounded; enemy losses included 54 killed and an additional 100 killed or wounded and carried away by retreating Viet Cong troops. In addition, a number of enemy weapons were seized.

On 27 August, to counter the increasing number of Viet Cong ambushes against patrol craft in the Mang Thit River, several boats from RAG 23 embarked units of the ARVN NINTH Division and

# SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES



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During the month the VNN's Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 67.9 percent on a total of 10,910 requests for items, and a net effectiveness of 81.9 percent on 8,932 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary  
August 1967

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
<u>Coastal Force</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
I NZ	10,051	41,401	0	67
II NZ	5,898	22,735	28	281
III NZ	8,873	31,832	0	26
IV NZ	2,983	9,109	0	2
Sub-Totals	27,805	105,077	28	376
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
Patrol Ships	372	1,345	1	0
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
Craft	3,530	9,940	1	3
Totals	31,707	116,362	30	379

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In August the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone. During the month the six infantry battalions were committed to operations 89 percent of the time while the three batteries of the artillery battalion were committed 82 percent of the time.

On 1 August Brigade Force A, consisting of a headquarters,



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the 3rd and 4th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, completed its participation in Operation CORONADO II, in the Delta region west of Dong Tam. That day the 3rd Battalion was relieved by the 5th Battalion and, on 4 August, all of the units comprising Force A returned to the Marines' base camp at Thu Duc.

On the 11th Force A deployed to the area east of Tan Uyen, 17 miles northeast of Saigon, to conduct coordinated operations with units of the U. S. Army FIRST Division. Through the end of the month the Marines carried out cordon- and sweep-type missions in this area, encountering scattered contact with enemy forces. During this period Marine units overran several Viet Cong base camp areas, destroying 55 bunkers and a number of structures, and seizing over 6,000 pounds of rice. Two Marines were killed and seven were wounded by Viet Cong mines and booby traps.

Meanwhile, throughout August Task Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 1st and 2nd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, continued Operation SONG THAN 14 in the northern portion of the II Corps Tactical Zone. The daily activity of the Force included search and destroy sweeps and road security duties, and resulted in sporadic contact with the enemy. On the morning of 6 August, nine miles south of Bong Son, a Viet Cong defected to a unit of the 2nd Battalion, the first Hoi Chanh received thus far by Marines operating in the Bong Son area. On the 11th, near Duong

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Lieu, a Viet Cong official was killed during a 2nd Battalion ambush mission. That evening a Marine patrol killed a North Vietnamese Army soldier and captured another; the incident marked the first Marine contact with North Vietnamese elements since March. During the remainder of the month the brigade force killed three Viet Cong, captured five and detained 139 suspects. At the same time, two Marines were killed and nine were wounded (six by Viet Cong mines).

On the 12th of August the 3rd Battalion (which had distinguished itself during Operation CORONADO II) deployed to the Rung Sat Special Zone in company with Battery A of the Artillery Battalion. Through the end of the month the battalion conducted platoon- and company-size operations; no significant contact occurred with the enemy during this period.

Meanwhile, in the Vinh Loc area, four miles west of Saigon, the 6th Battalion conducted over 100 company- and platoon-size security sweeps and over 600 squad-size ambushes in August. The missions resulted in the capture of two Viet Cong. During the latter part of the month the battalion conducted an extensive civic action project in the hamlet of Binh Hoa; in addition to providing residents of the hamlet with medical treatment, battalion personnel distributed large quantities of foodstuffs.

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Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary  
August 1967

VC/NVA: 8 KIA, 8 VC CAPTURED, 139 SUSPECTS DETAINED

VNMC: 5 KIA, 26 WIA

Weapons Captured:

Colt 357, Magnum	1
Rifles, U. S. carbine	1
Pistols, .45 caliber	1

Captured or Destroyed Materiel/Facilities:

Rice (kg.)	3,432
Salt (kg.)	10
Assorted medical supplies (lbs.)	10
Assorted documents (lbs.)	2
Huts	5
Bombs (500 lb., dud)	1
Mines (155-mm., modified)	2
Mines (105-mm., modified)	10
Mines ("claymore")	4
Grenades	13
Sampans	2
Foxholes	15
Fabric (yds.)	100

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The Naval Training Center at Nha Trang, site of the Vietnamese Naval Academy.

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APPENDIX I

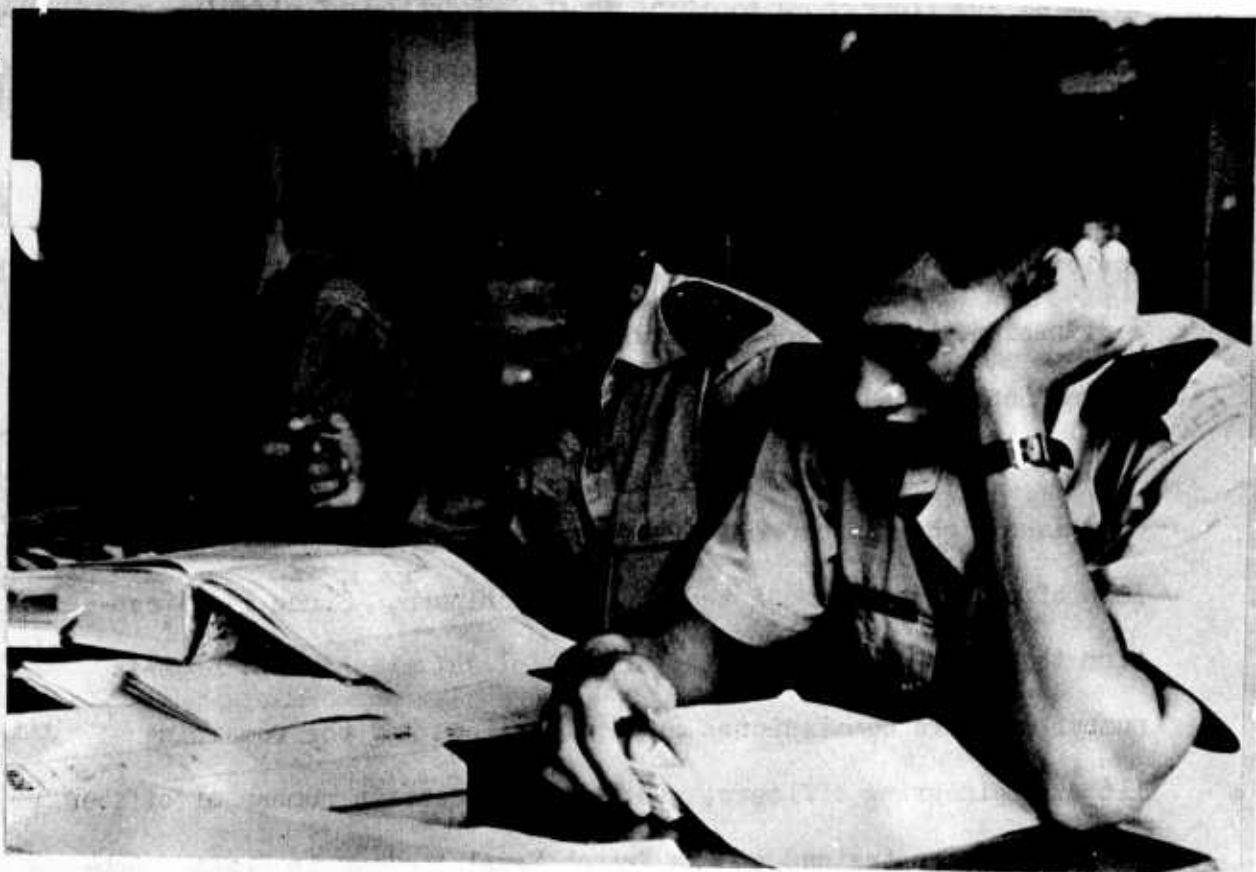
THE VIETNAMESE NAVAL ACADEMY

The Vietnamese Naval Academy, established by the French in 1951, is part of a 30-acre Naval Training Center site four miles south of Nha Trang. In addition to the education of midshipmen, the center's 42-building complex serves the training needs of 14 various Class "A" Schools conducted for qualified enlisted men. The facilities include a library containing 8,000 volumes, an auditorium, a language laboratory, numerous shops, a dispensary, a gymnasium, six barracks, two dining halls, a Catholic chapel and a Buddhist pagoda.

The Academy's initial graduating class, commissioned in 1952, comprised eight midshipmen. Class 16, which was graduated on the 10th of this month, consisted of 129 midshipmen. Since its inception the Academy has graduated a total of 747 midshipmen; of this number 631 were commissioned as line officers and the remaining 116 as engineering officers. Until 1957 a certain number of officer candidates were trained at the French Naval Academy in Brest. Subsequent to 1957 all candidates have been trained exclusively at the Vietnamese Naval Academy.

In order to be eligible for the Academy, a candidate must be at least 18 years of age and not older than 26. He must meet stringent moral and physical requirements, pass an entrance

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Midshipmen at study in the Academy's library.

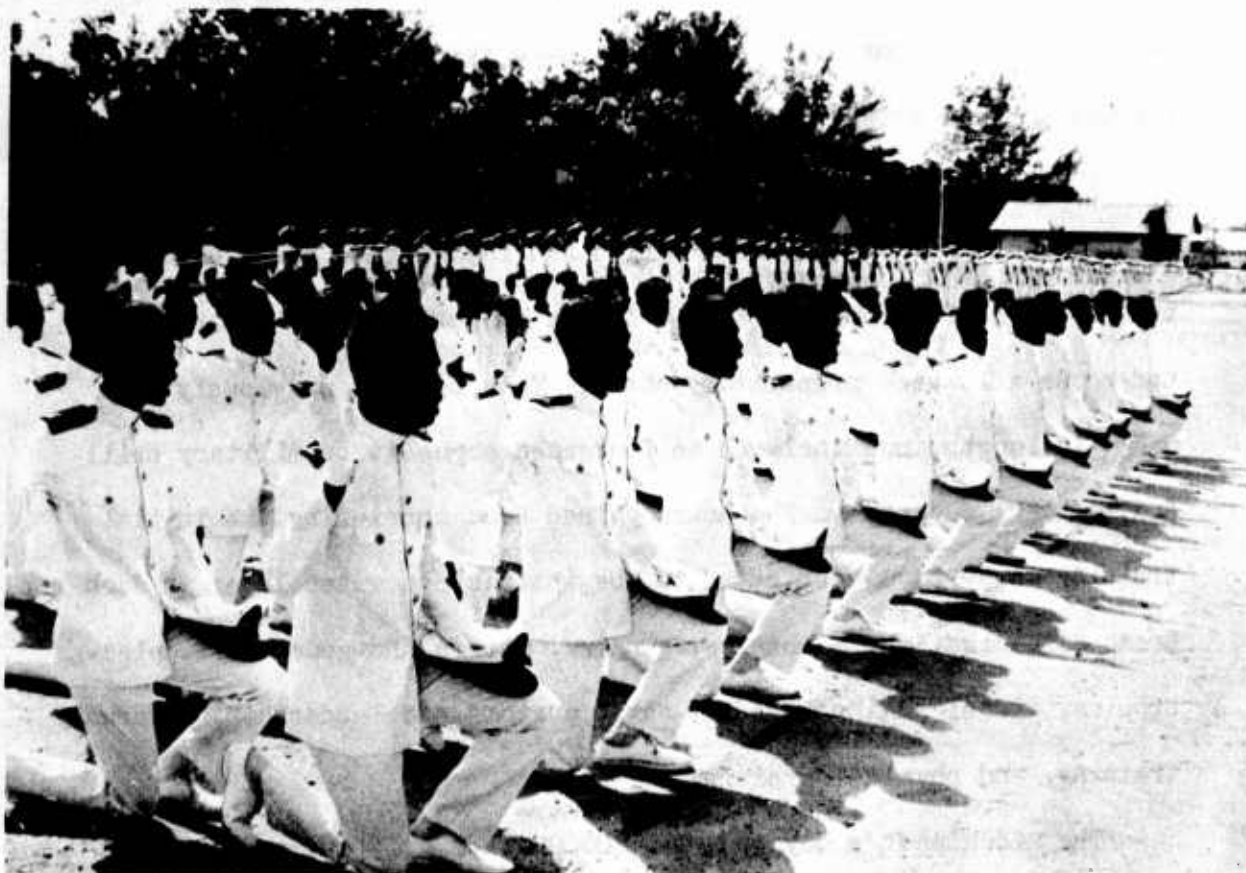
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examination, and possess a minimum of 12 years of education with a major in mathematics. The average midshipman entering the Academy is 21 years old, was raised in a southern city or medium-size town, and is the son of a government employee or middle class merchant. In recent years there have been twice as many applicants for the Academy as there are openings.

The Academy's curriculum, which underwent a number of revisions this summer, covers a 24-month period and is designed to accommodate two separate midshipmen classes. At the outset the first-year group undergoes a 10-week preparatory phase. This period, previously 16 weeks in length, now includes an increased emphasis on military drill and military subjects. The hours gained from shortening the initial training phase have been added to the instruction given later in such areas as navigation, mechanics, gunnery, motors and generators, electronics, diesel engines, radar, naval customs and leadership, underway training, and physical training.

The midshipmen's day begins at 0600, ends at 2200, and contains a compulsory study period (six nights a week) between 1930 and 2130. The academic routine includes classroom and laboratory sessions, and among the subjects taught are seamanship, mathematics, communications, electricity, damage control, English, tactics, meteorology, naval regulations, psychological operations, logistics, amphibious operations, and staff planning. The midshipmen march to and from all

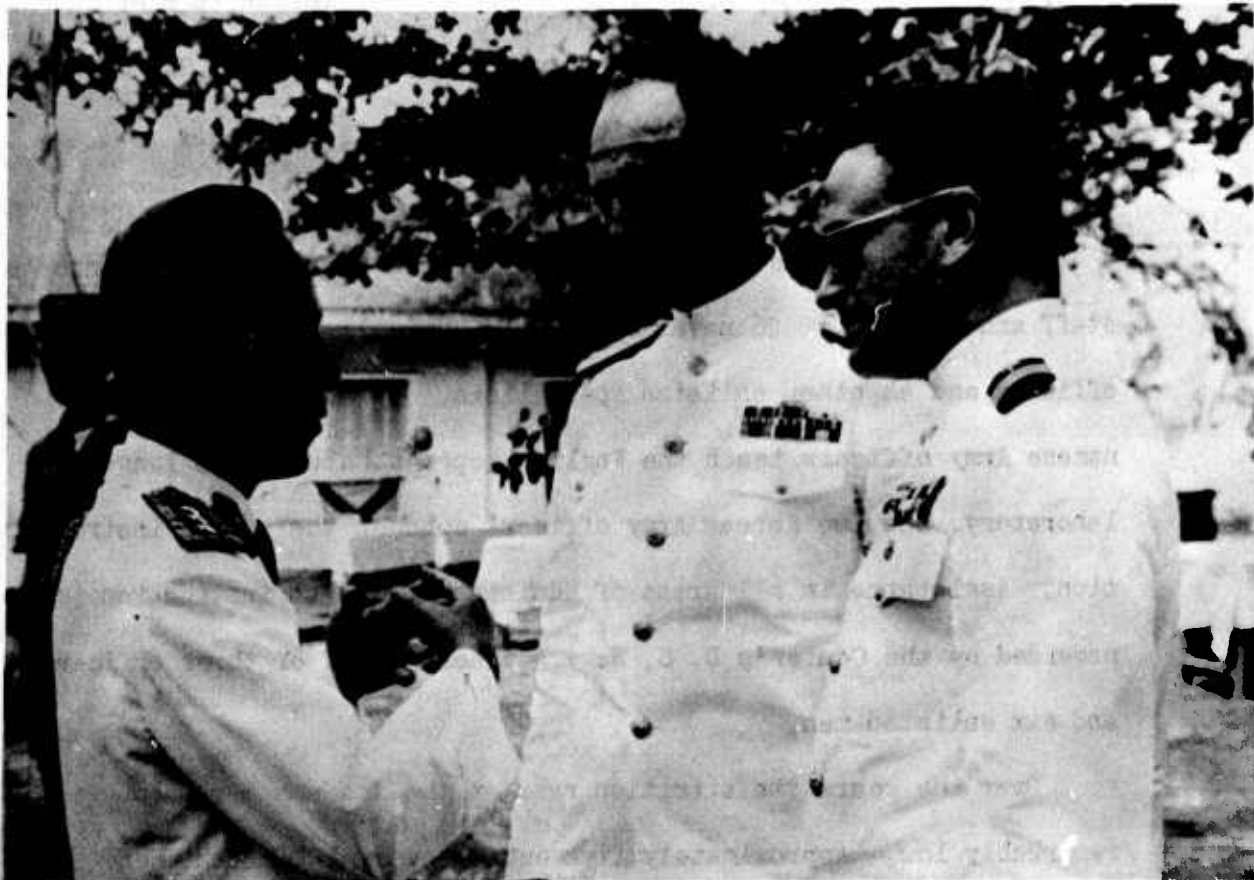
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Members of the Academy's Class 16 repeat the commissioning oath during graduation ceremonies held 10 August.



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Following the 10 August commencement exercises, South Vietnam's Chief of State, General Nguyen Van THIEU, chats with Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, and Captain Allan P. SLAFF, USN, Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters.

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evolutions in formation (approximately 170 hours of the curriculum are devoted to inspections and parades), and the physical training program includes instruction in tae-kwon-do, the Korean form of karate. Each month a Vietnamese Navy LSSL (Landing Ship, Support, Large) embarks a group of midshipmen and conducts a one-day training cruise.

The Academy's instructors are part of the Naval Training Center's staff and consist of 26 naval officers, 24 civilians, 41 chief petty officers and 64 other enlisted specialists. In addition, five Vietnamese Army officers teach the English courses held in the language laboratory, and two Korean Army officers conduct the karate instruction. Assistance in all areas of administration and instruction is provided by the Center's U. S. Navy advisory staff of three officers and six enlisted men.

Over the years the attrition rate at the Academy has been remarkably low. Approximately five out of every 100 midshipmen enrolled fail to graduate, either for scholastic or physical reasons. Those who fail during the second year of their training may, if so recommended after spending a year in the fleet, take the Academy's final examination and, if successful, qualify for a commission.

On the average, 75 percent of graduating midshipmen become line officers and the rest become engineering specialists. Each

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year 40 to 50 of the top graduates report to U. S. ships of the SEVENTH Fleet for eight weeks of special training. The obligated tour of duty for a newly-commissioned Vietnamese ensign is five years in the Naval Reserve. After two years of service the officer is eligible to apply for a commission in the Regular Navy.

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APPENDIX II

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during August.

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

(1) U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	144	160	304
Attendance	5,811	1,220	7,001
Communed	1,735	650	2,385

(2) Other Military Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	53	20	73
Attendance	1,164	374	1,538
Communed	589	184	773

(3) Civilian Churches

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	5	2	7
Attendance	2,413	77	2,490
Communed	945	21	966

b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains

other than those attached to NAVFORV:

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Chaplains</u>		<u>Lay Leaders</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>
Catholic	60	2,536	4	19
Protestant	23	586	17	141

c. Other services in which chaplains participated:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Memorial services	8	153
Prayer meetings	23	45
Weddings	2	160
Changes of command	2	45

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